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Kuwaitis held in Saudi haj probe

KUWAIT, Aug 6, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia has detained a number of Kuwaiti pilgrims for interrogation in connection with two bomb explosions in Makkah during the haj last month, the Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Abdul-Rahman Al Awadi, said today.

HH the Amir of Kuwait is personally interested in following up the detention by Saudi authorities of some Kuwaiti pilgrims being investigated for alleged involvement in incidents that occurred in the Holy City of Makkah during the recent haj.

A verbal message to this effect from HH the Amir to his brother the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdel Aziz was conveyed by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Saturday.

Bhutto colleague arrested in Punjab; bombs kill 4 — See Page 2

Egypt denies it has chems

CAIRO, Aug 6, (Reuters): Egyptian Defence Minister Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb has categorically denied that his country possesses chemical weapons or intends to manufacture them.

"We insist and we ensure that we don't have and do not intend to have these chemical weapons," Abu Taleb told Reuters, and the international television agency Yawnews shortly before leaving on his first visit to the United States as Egypt's top soldier.

Abu Taleb, 60, was appointed defence minister and commander-in-chief of Egypt's armed forces in April in a move that took many diplomats and political observers by surprise.

US media had linked his replacement of Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala with reports that Washington's main Arab ally was developing new poison gases and long-range missiles and was involved in alleged attempts to obtain US secrets illegally.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazala had long been regarded as the second most powerful man in Egypt after President Mubarak. He was also known as staunchly pro-American.

His successor, a career soldier with a reputation for skilful management, was to begin talks today with US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on ways of strengthening already close defence ties between the two countries.

In Wednesday's interview, Abu Taleb said Egypt was against missile proliferation, but said those with a range of more than 300 or 450 km (200 or 300 miles) should come within a regional arms control package embracing nuclear and chemical weapons.

He made no direct reference to Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear warheads and the means to deliver them.

The general was asked if US-Egyptian ties were marred by the conviction by a Cairo court of US nationals for spying as well as US charges of attempts to illegally export sensitive American missile technology to Egypt.

"I don't think anything should cloud any relations... we never interfere in the internal affairs of any countries," he said, adding that it was the right of both Egypt and the United States to act as they saw fit to protect their security.

Sami Youssef Ibrahim Wassef was sentenced in Cairo last week to 10 years for spying for the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Egyptian-born but raised in the United States, Wassef said he was a victim of trumped-up charges aimed at swapping him for Abdel-Kader Helmi, an Egyptian-born American who faces US charges of trying to smuggle missile technology to Egypt.

Abu Taleb stressed what he saw as the strength of relations between the two countries.

"I believe the relationship is very strong now. We were full partners in the peace process... I do believe our mutual interest are peace, security, stability and democracy."



'Radical' with roots
Father and mother of Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid, who was kidnapped from his southern Lebanese village of Jibehat by an Israeli commando team. His children Sajeda, 4, Sajed, 7, Mushtabah, 3, and Mujahed, 6, sit in front of their grandparents' home village. (Reuters wirephoto)



Sheikh Omar jailed
Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, stands behind wired bars in a Cairo State security court. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fire guts paper plant

By Nashat Al Agha

A HUGE fire broke out Sunday noon at a large paper manufacturing company in Mina Abdulla industrial area, 60 km south of Kuwait city. Twenty-five fire engines from five fire-fighting centres took part in extinguishing the fire which was still going on till late last night. The fire broke out at 2.00 pm.

The fire totally damaged the company stores containing paper and other chemical materials.

Three workers of the firm were reported to have been injured and were taken to hospital for treatment. The firemen were fighting to protect the administration of the company, as most of the store sheds vanished. Responsible sources put the damages at more than KD500,000 and added it may well reach KD1 million.

Bad weather and strong north westerly winds, which caused dust in Kuwait yesterday, helped the fire quickly spread to all stores.

Director-General of the Fire Department, Brig. Ahmad Al Abdul-Razzaq and other Fire Department senior officials rushed to the scene and supervised putting off the fire.

Director of Fire Fighting, Musaed Al Mulla said last evening that the fire was under control but he added that it may require 6 more hours to be put off completely.

He said that the causes of the fire were not immediately known and an investigation committee has been set up.

Acting general manager of the company, Faisal Al Eidan said that storing at the company was done properly, adding he was expecting more effort from the Fire Department.

A number of Ministry of Health ambulances also rushed to the scene and rescued three workers. There is a very important oil exporting port, but the industrial area, where the fire broke out, is far away.

Top clerics confirm Khamenei as Iranian 'leader'

NICOSIA, Aug 6, (Reuters): Top clerics confirmed outgoing President Ali Khamenei as Iran's new supreme leader today, amid signs of dissent within the government.

Hardline Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi issued an apparent challenge to Khamenei's successor as President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, saying he could not take office until Khamenei had quit.

Despite official reports that Rafsanjani was sworn in as President on Thursday, Mohtashemi told IRNA news agency: "Legally His Excellency Ayatollah Khamenei is the President until the end of his term on October 9."

"This is unless he resigns from this post before that date and Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani reads the presidential oath in the Majlis (Parliament) and officially starts work."

Top clerics grouped in the assembly of experts first met on June 4, the day after Ayatollah Khomeini's death, to choose Khamenei as his successor by a four-fifths majority.

IRNA said the clerics met to reaffirm Khamenei following constitutional changes approved in a referendum on July 28, the same day as the presidential election.

The changes reduce the religious qualifications required by the supreme leader and greatly increase the powers of the presidency, abolishing the post of prime minister.

'Cicippio walks if ...' Israeli may die instead

BEIRUT, Aug 6, (Agencies): The pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation said today it was ready to free US hostage Joseph Cicippio if Israel released Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid and 450 other Arab prisoners.

The group issued a statement saying it had received a positive response to its demand on Thursday that Israel release Shiite and Palestinian prisoners.

The statement, accompanied by a photograph of another US hostage held by the group, Edward Tracy, said its "initiative" was going ahead "following encouraging regional developments promising happy endings to the hostage problem."

The group threatened to kill Cicippio last week unless Israel freed Obeid, kidnapped by commandos in a raid into southern Lebanon on July 28.

It suspended the threat at the last minute on condition that Israel replied "within days" to a demand that Obeid and other prisoners be freed, it said then it would give the Red Cross a list of the prisoners.

Syrian shells drown 2 babes

BEIRUT, Aug 6, (Agencies): Two sisters, aged one and two, were drowned today when Syrian shells capsize a motor boat packed with refugees fleeing the carnage in Lebanon.

The latest victims in a five-month bout of bloodletting were being taken from Jounieh to the Cyprus-bound Hydrofoil Santa Maria, the only escape route for the country's besieged Christians.

Syrian forces opened up with a hail of shellfire as the ferry approached near dawn to pick up hundreds of Christians.

"Shells started slamming around them. The power of the blast turned the boat over. The girls were thrown off along with the 11 others," said a witness.

Patrol boats of Christian Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun and the Lebanese Forces militia turned on their floodlights and rushed to help survivors.

Twelve people, including two-year-old Roubia Azar, were picked up in the hour-long operation but the toddler, who had swallowed a lot of water, died a few hours later in hospital. The body of her sister Maya was washed ashore this morning.

Witnesses said dozens of shells crashed into the sea near the Santa Maria, packed with at least 300 terrified people, which sailed away unscathed.

A second boat carrying 12 passengers also capsized but its passengers were saved. Army helicopters were brought in to help the rescue operations.

The sisters were the first people killed trying to reach a ferry. At least 560 people have been killed and more than 2,000 wounded since battles erupted in mid-March, when Aoun launched a "war of liberation" against Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Security sources said the Syrians also fired at two freighters bringing badly-needed food for the Christian enclave, blockaded by the Syrians and their Lebanese Muslim allies.

Aoun's troops retaliated by shelling residential areas of West Beirut.

Fierce clashes pitting Christian forces against Syrian and Muslim troops raged today across the divided capital, leaving five people dead, including two toddlers who drowned.

The latest flare-up in the fighting came amid reports Syria had dispatched more troops to reinforce its positions around Christian-held areas.

Witnesses reported seeing dozens of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and munitions trucks entering Lebanon and heading towards Beirut and Syrian positions in nearby hills.

Several tanks manned by Syrian troops took up positions on the Muslim side of the capital's "Green Line" and several field guns, mortars and multiple rocket launchers were set up in the region, they said.

At least 11 people were killed and 40 wounded yesterday when a Syrian mortar bomb pierced a concrete shelter in East Beirut. Many were buried under the rubble.

"A new Syrian crime has been added to the one committed yesterday," the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio station said, commenting today's bloodshed.

Arab League envoys last week said their two-month effort to bring peace to Lebanon had reached a dead end.



Two-year-old Roubia Azar lies in East Beirut hospital morgue. She drowned with her one-year-old sister when Syrian shells capsize a motorboat packed with refugees fleeing the carnage in Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

DAY BY DAY

THE pathetic situation of Gulf tourists in London which is witnessing a heat wave, reminds me of a near similar scenario of Gulf people prior to the pre-oil era and before the introduction of air-conditioners.

Buildings in the foggy capital are designed only for winter and not for summer. These tourists spent over two weeks in London and other European capitals to escape the Gulf heat — only to end up in the streets searching for an air-conditioned place and praying incessantly for rains or cold north winds.

Poignantly they were also reminiscing about their old days before the discovery of oil made air-conditioning possible particularly the older folks. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

Zahed Matar

PLO pound

TUNIS, Aug 6, (AP): Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement adopted a proposal today to establish a Palestinian currency, backed by gold donated by PLO supporters, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The agency said the roughly 1,000 delegates to Fatah's fifth General Congress voted unanimously in favour of the idea presented by Arafat, who is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and of Fatah's central committee.

It said Palestinians would be asked to give a gold ring or some other gold object to constitute reserves for the currency, to be called the Palestinian pound.

(See Page 7)

54 killed in Sri Lanka

Second monk assassinated

COLOMBO, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Fifty-four people, including a senior Buddhist monk, have been killed in Sri Lanka in the past two days by left-wing rebels and pro-government militia, military sources said today.

The sources said Pokuru Banda Hemaloka — chief priest of a temple at Puttalam, 120 km (75 miles) north of Colombo — was the second Buddhist monk to be killed by the leftist People's Liberation Front. They could give no reason for the killing.

The front on Thursday shot dead a 72-year-old priest who praised President Ranasinghe Premadasa last week for averting a confrontation with India on the withdrawal of Indian troops.

The People's Liberation Front, through a campaign of killings and general strikes, is trying to wrest power from Premadasa's government.

PPP leader in detention

Bombs kill four

LAHORE, Aug. 6. (Agencies): A senior member of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was arrested in the opposition-ruled Punjab today, deepening the rift between her government and the opposition.

Punjab police said Salman Taseer, deputy PPP leader in the provincial assembly, was detained in Lahore. A police spokesman told the PPI news agency that Taseer was accused of incitement to violence in a speech he had made in January.

The incident was seen in Pakistani political circles as linked to the hostility between Bhutto's federal government and Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Since their election victories last November, Benazir and Sharif have been barely on speaking terms and co-operation between federal and Punjab authorities has been minimal. More than half Pakistan's 105 million people live in the province.

Under the Pakistani system the police are controlled by the four provincial governments.

Political analysts said Taseer's arrest was certain to be interpreted as retaliation for the detention of an opposition leader in the PPP-ruled North West Frontier Province on July 22.

Retired General Fazle Haq was arrested in an investigation into the murder a year ago of a prominent Shiite Muslim leader.

He has denied responsibility and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance accused the PPP of using the case for political persecution, a charge denied by Benazir's government.

In Islamabad, the Federal Investigation Agency arrested the editor of the opposition Pakistan Observer newspaper today.

A government spokesman said Zahid Malik was arrested in connection with a book he had written on Pakistan's alleged nuclear bomb programme and not because of his newspaper's political views.

Taseer, a close friend of the Benazir family, had been threatened with arrest for some months over his allegedly illegal



Benazir Bhutto

demolition of a wall near his Lahore home.

He had successfully applied for pre-arrest bail and was leaving court this morning after winning another extension when police detained him on the other, more serious matter.

Under Pakistani law a suspect can be detained well in advance of formal charges.

Four people died and 63 people were wounded today when separate bomb explosions jolted two Pakistani cities, 120 miles (190 kilometres) apart.

A powerful bomb hidden in a potato crate exploded at a vegetable market of Pakistan's frontier city of Peshawar, killing four and wounding 31, police said.

Hospital officials said 10 of the wounded were treated for minor injuries and later released.

In Rawalpindi, outside the nation's capital of Islamabad, 37 people were injured when two bombs about a mile (1.6 kilometres) from each other ripped through a crowded market area, hospital scores said.

Windows in nearby buildings shattered and scores of mid-afternoon shoppers fled in panic, said eyewitnesses.

"There was a big blast and people started running everywhere trying to find a place to hide," said Abdul Salam, who was treated for facial cuts from flying shrapnel.

Hospital officials said two of the blasts in the two cities were connected. No group immediately claimed responsibility for either.

It is also vehemently opposed to the presence of 45,000 Indian troops, there to implement an agreement with the government in the Tamil-dominated North and East. Colombo has recently put pressure on New Delhi to withdraw the troops.

A government statement said the killings by subversives — a reference to the front — occurred across the island. Most of the victims were local government officials and supporters.

The military sources said pro-government groups were responsible for killing 10 front supporters in southern and central provinces last night.

Accused

"Their bodies were found on the roadside," one source said.

Opposition groups have accused the government of using underground groups to hunt the front.

At a special meeting tomorrow, Premadasa will meet his ministers to discuss the outcome of failed talks with New Delhi on the pullout of Indian troops.

A government statement yesterday said the President would finalise his response to the talks after listening to the views of cabinet colleagues.

Premadasa will seek a consensus among his ministers on the latest proposals put forward by India for a phased withdrawal of the Indian peace keeping force from Sri Lanka.

Premadasa said he will submit the cabinet's decision on the proposals to a parliamentary group on Tuesday.

The government can either accept the new Indian proposals, send another delegation to New Delhi to work out a new troop withdrawal agreement or reconsider some of the options worked out by the Sri Lanka government prior to the New Delhi meeting.

Sri Lanka's delegation, led by Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, returned to Colombo yesterday after week-long talks ended without a decision on when troops should go.

The state-run Sunday Observer said India was willing to pull out 1,800 men each week and hold a ceasefire with Tamil guerrillas if Colombo accepted New Delhi's proposals.

India wants quick devolution to an administrative council in the North and East linked to the withdrawal.

An authoritative Indian government source said Premadasa will seek the views of his ministers on conditions which include changes to the constitution to give Sri Lanka's northeast provincial council a "full degree" of financial, administrative and legal autonomy and introduce other legislation to enhance the Citizen's Volunteer Force (CVF) during a withdrawal spread over at least eight to nine months.

Rejected

India has categorically rejected Sri Lanka's demand that her peace-keeping force cease all offensive military operations. India has however agreed to participate in a conditional 15-day truce.

India has agreed to set up a consultative committee made up of representatives of both governments and a Tamil opposition group to observe the truce. The Tamils would serve in the committee if they agree to surrender their arms in accordance with the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

The same sources indicated that Premadasa was expected to meet leaders of all recognised political parties on India's demands for a phased withdrawal of the Indian troops.

The Udayan newspaper in the northern Jaffna district said today that at least 70 people were killed and 80 were wounded last week in Indian operations.

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Breaking records

R. Muthukumar, 57, a former milkman from Tamil Nadu, India cools himself down with a bucket of water in a non-stop cycling event held during a carnival in the beach resort of Port Dickson, Malaysia, yesterday. Muthukumar cycled non stop for 126 hours to better the 12-hour mark which is in the Guinness Book of World Records. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bard and bowlers

ROME, Aug. 6. (AP): The official Libyan news agency criticised the British media today for ridiculing Col. Moammar Khaddafi's contention that William Shakespeare was of Arab origin.

Jana, monitored in Rome, also said that any Arab ties to Shakespeare would not increase Arab prestige but would be instead "an honour to the British and Shakespeare himself and his family."

"The smell of chauvinism seems to have overwhelmed the atmosphere of the talk broadcast by the British radio on the historical view regarding the attribution of the name of Shakespeare to Arab origins, as put forward by brother Moammar Khaddafi," Jana said in a dispatch titled "Shakespeare: is he Arab?"

The agency said the British media should have used "scientific analysis" in discussing Shakespeare's origins, rather than "throwing insults and defamation and using description against others no civilised mind would accept."



Sportive look

US rock star La Tova Jackson sports a Soviet Army hat during a tour of Red Square before this week-end's Music Summit rock festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

8 more drown in Bangladesh, death toll rises to 200

DHAKA, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Eight more people have drowned, and the death toll nears 200 as floods cut off 500,000 Bangladeshis.

Other areas flooded by the rain-swollen Kushiara river included the Balaganj, Fenchuganj and Bianbazar areas of the tea-growing Sylhet district.

"The courage of the people and the sincerity of the government helped us survive a much worse flooding last year. We shall face it boldly this year too,"

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said during a visit to Zakiganj yesterday. State television showed the president travelling on a military vessel and reassuring marooned villagers that no one would starve or die for lack of medical care.

More than 5,000 people took shelter in makeshift camps but local officials said food and other supplies were inadequate.

"Dozens of remote villages have been cut off for days with people trapped in houses waist or shoulder-deep in water,"

one official said. Shortages of drinking water have caused many to come down with diarrhoea in some of the stricken areas, he added.

The flood control centre in Dhaka said more than 100,000 people were driven from their homes by the floods in 11 north-eastern and central districts.

Floods in 1988, the worst for 40 years, killed at least 3,000, made millions homeless and destroyed three million tonnes of

Focus

F-16 sale outlined

US-Pakistan deal urged

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6. The Bush administration says its proposed \$1,500 million sale of 60 F-16 A/B interceptor aircraft to Pakistan would "maintain a rough balance" between Pakistan and India air power.

Teresta C. Schaffer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, appearing before a joint meeting of the Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Security and Science and the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, said the request from the government of Pakistan in October 1988 was considered against "a range of relevant factors" before the department agreed to the sale. She said those factors included:

- The impact of selling or not selling on Pakistan's security and development.
- Pakistan's improving relations with India
- The risks of conventional and nuclear arms proliferation in the region
- The new democratic government in Pakistan and
- US relations with Pakistan.

"We have been very pleased with the improved relations between India and Pakistan," Schaffer said in response to questions by Stephen Solarz, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, on the impact of the sale on Pakistan-India relations.

We believe that a more confident Pakistan with a reasonable defensive capability will be better able to negotiate the kind of fair and lasting agreements with India which will reduce the chances of war."

Schaffer said "the great bulk" of the \$1,500 million package will be covered by funds already earmarked for an aircraft the US and Pakistan had intended to coproduce some years ago.

The proposed sale would represent eight per cent of Pakistan's defence budget, Schaffer said.

She said the defensive aircraft will not contribute to an escalation of military technology on the subcontinent, change the military balance nor destabilise the region. "None of the F-16s Pakistan already owns or is about to purchase is configured for nuclear delivery," Schaffer said, adding that the contract for the sale will include "a prohibition of any modification to the plane."

Congress was notified informally of the administration's intention to proceed with the F-16 sale for Pakistan on June 8, and the formal notification was delivered to Congress on July 10 for the mandatory statutory 30-day review period.

Arthur H. Hughes, deputy assistant secretary of defence for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs said he would anticipate acceptance of the sales agreement by the government of Pakistan "sometime in the fall," and first delivery of the aircraft would occur in about three years. Deliveries would run at 15 aircraft a year over four years with the final F-16 delivered in 1996, Hughes said.

Hughes said Pakistan intends to use its own national funds, not US-provided FMS credits, to pay for the new F-16. The F-16's proposed for sale, together with some aircraft that Pakistan has indicated it will purchase from China, are to replace the 170 obsolete Chinese F-6 aircraft which are the Chinese versions of the Soviet MIG-19.

The following is a portion of the text of Schaffer's testimony before the subcommittees:

Pakistan is surrounded by nations with large military forces: Iran, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, China and India.

The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, the massive influx of modern weapons into Afghanistan from the Soviet Union, and repeated attacks on Pakistani soil by the Kabul regime continue to pose a very real threat to Pakistan's security. The current US security assistance programme to Pakistan aims to help it maintain a credible deterrent to possible current Pakistan government, like its predecessor, has made the modernisation of its fighter force a top defence priority and is prepared to do this out of its own funds.

After her accession to the prime ministership in early December 1988, Benazir Bhutto called for a thorough review of Pakistan's military procurement plans. At the end of January she informed our ambassador in Islamabad that she had decided that Pakistan needs more F-16s.

She subsequently reviewed the situation again, carefully, from the standpoints of regional relations and affordability. She reaffirmed her earlier decision and communicated it to the discussed this decision before her visit here in June. We have discussed this decision in detail with a number of Pakistani authorities.

They explain that important elements of Pakistan's air force, such as the Chinese variants of the MIG-19 obtained in the 1960s, are old and increasingly outmoded. Many of its fighter aircraft will be

retired in the next few years.

Unless these aircraft are replaced with modern versions, the present military equation in South Asia will shift increasingly to Pakistan's disadvantage, with potentially destabilising consequences.

The Pakistan government has examined various replacement possibilities, including high technology models from other Western countries, and has decided that the US-built F-16 A/B, which is present already in its Air Force, makes the best sense in terms of both performance and economics.

The Bhutto government, although deciding to pursue the F-16 purchase, has taken steps to increase the developmental thrust of overall government expenditures.

The great bulk of the \$1.5 billion cost of the F-16 package will be covered by funds already earmarked for an aircraft that Pakistan had intended to coproduce some years ago.

In the new government's budget for 1989-90, defence is allotted a small nominal increase, which represents a substantial decrease in real terms. In contrast, spending on education is up 68 per cent and health 26 per cent.

A people's development structure has been erected and allocated \$143 million the first year to ensure that development monies are spread widely at the grass roots.

The government of India has expressed its concern about our intention to sell more F-16s to Pakistan.

We have considered India's views very carefully, but feel that a sale of 60 F-16 A/B's will not contribute to an escalation of military technology on the subcontinent, change the military balance, nor destabilise the region.

On the contrary, we believe that a more confident Pakistan with a reasonable defensive capability will be better able to negotiate the kind of fair and lasting agreements with India which will reduce the chances of war between them. I would note that the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers have continued their efforts to improve relations since the administration formally notified Congress of this sale.

We believe also that our own good relations with India are sustained by a growing range of mutual interests. Growing ties in trade and high technology occupy an increasingly important place in our bilateral dialogue.

We do not consider our relations with India and Pakistan to be zero-sum game. I believe that the GOI understands this position and would agree that Indo-US relations should not be defined predominantly in terms of our relations with Pakistan, the Soviet Union, or any other country.

We have heard concerns expressed that the sale of F-16 to Pakistan could increase the dangers of nuclear proliferation on the subcontinent. We believe the opposite is true. None of the F-16s Pakistan already owns or is about to purchase is configured for nuclear delivery.

Pakistan, moreover, will be obligated contractually not to modify its new acquisitions without the approval of the US more importantly, a Pakistan with credible conventional deterrent will be less motivated to pursue a nuclear weapons capability.

The establishment of democracy in Pakistan after more than a decade of military rule is, we believe, one of the most important events in modern Pakistani and South Asian history. The United States should do all it can to support and strengthen these democratic institutions and their civilian leadership.

Our willingness to co-operate with the new government's efforts to modernise its fighter force will contribute to Pakistan's sense of security and assure the Pakistani public that the country's defence needs can be met effectively by a civilian and democratic government.

In May the State Department consulted informally with a number of members and staff in both the House and Senate. Our conclusion from those consultations was that there is broad-based support in Congress for the sale of this major weapons system as one indication of US support for the new democratic government of Pakistan. In early June Prime Minister Bhutto visited Washington.

In her address before a joint meeting of Congress and in discussions with high-level administration officials she spoke of a new partnership with the United States based on shared democratic and developmental values and on a growing range of common interests.

She reiterated Pakistan's commitment to working with the United States in supporting the Afghan resistance, assisting the millions of Afghan refugees, suppressing the illicit drug trade, and preventing nuclear proliferation.

She stated that US military assistance to Pakistan has contributed to peace and stability in South Asia.

India bans cricket stars

(Continued from Page 1)

The two are currently playing Summer League cricket in England.

PTI said today's decision came at the end of a two-day sitting by the six-member disciplinary committee headed by board President Bishwanath Dut.

Manager Srinivasan Venkataraghavan, who also accompanied the 14 players, did not come under the purview of the board which was authorised to examine the actions of players only, Singh was quoted by PTI as saying.

It said the board has often taken disciplinary action against individual cricketers in the past but the latest decision was the "harsh step ever taken by the BCCI... in the history of Indian cricket."

The ban will effectively cripple the Indian team that faces tours

to Sharjah, Pakistan and New Zealand in this season. India is also scheduled to host the Nehru Cup international one-day championship in October/November.

This was the second ban on Vengsarkar. He was barred from the game from March to August 1988 for violating a clause in the contract with the board, prohibiting players from writing for newspapers.

PTI said the decision might have been influenced by complaints made recently by the recognised cricket boards of USA and Canada and the International Cricket Conference, London.

The news agency quoted Singh as saying that the US and the Canadian boards wanted the International Cricket Conference to take action against the Indian board for not stopping

the unauthorised tour.

During the North American tour, the Indian cricket team, calling themselves Indian XI, played four limited-overs matches. The first was on May 6 against the West Indies in Mt. Vernon, a New York suburb, which the Indians lost.

On May 13, the Indian XI beat Pakistan XI in Randall's island stadium in New York City. Later that month they played with the Pakistan team in Toronto, Canada and the Los Angeles Coliseum, losing both the matches.

The three-match series with Pakistan XI was organised by the US Cricket Control Board, Inc., a private enterprise, reportedly owned by Pakistani Entrepreneurs.

India had a disastrous tour of the West Indies earlier, losing the four-Test series 3-0. One match was drawn.

Police seize 400 kg of hashish on beach

ALMERIA, Spain, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Police said today they had seized 400 kgs (882 pounds) of hashish hidden in an isolated inlet on the southern coast of Spain.

They said 18 bags of the drug, with a street value of around \$10 million, were found under a pile of branches.

The hashish appeared to have been shipped from Morocco by traffickers using the inlet as a dropping point for local dealers.

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Balloon crash kills pilot as thousands watch

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana, Aug 6, (AP): A balloon deflated and plunged about 2,000 feet (600 meters) to the ground yesterday evening at the national hot air balloon championships, killing its lone occupant as thousands of spectators watched.

Robert Mock, 52, of Panna, Colorado, died at Our Lady of The Lake Medical Centre about an hour after the 5:55 p.m. accident, said a nursing supervisor who refused to give her name.

The cause of the accident was not known, but

witnesses said Mock's balloon suddenly deflated and plunged to the ground.

Mock apparently turned the burner off at that point to prevent a fire on impact, Jim Birk director of the ballooning championships said.

Mock told his ground crew by radio that the flaps on his balloon were loose, and he apparently tried to compensate by pumping more hot air into the balloon, said East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Capt Robert Shorter.

"At that point, the balloon collapsed and he plunged approximately 2,000 feet (600 metres)," Shorter said.

About 45 balloons were in the air at the time, Birk said.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the accident.

The FAA tightly regulates the sport and inspects balloons annually or after each 100 hours of operation, just as the federal agency checks conventional aircraft, Birk said.

Parachutes aren't required and a fire extinguisher is the only safety equipment carried in gondolas.

"At many times, there is little the pilot can do to retard a fall," he said.

Yesterday was the second day of the gathering of hot-air balloonists. The championships end Aug 13. It was the first fatal accident in the national championships' 19-year history, Birk said.

Crime in America still climbing: FBI

More murders and rapes

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (UPI): Crime across America jumped 3 per cent last year — rising to more than five offences for every 100 US residents — with murder and rapes increasing more than cases of arson and theft, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

In its annual "Crime in the United States" report, the FBI not only compared figures to 1987 but also showed the number of crimes known to law-enforcement authorities was 17 per cent higher than five years ago and 14 per cent above the level a decade ago.

Violent crime was up 6 per cent overall from 1987, with each offensive in that category increasing. Property crime such as arson, larceny and motor vehicle theft climbed a slower 3 per cent, and burglary even declined slightly.

An estimated 13.8 million arrests were made for all crimes other than traffic violations, a 1 per cent increase from 1987, the FBI said. Authorities resolved 46 per cent of the violent crimes but just 18 per cent of property crimes for an overall record of one resolution in every five cases.

Among the highlights of the bureau's report:

Murder rate

The murder rate was eight per every 100,000 US residents, for an estimated 20,675 victims. Murder was up 3 per cent from 1987, 11 per cent from 1984, but down 4 per cent from a decade ago in 1979. Three-quarters of the victims were male, half were white, 91 per cent were age 18 or older and more than half of them were related to or acquainted with their assailants. Guns were used for about three of every five killings.

Rapes

Reported rapes totalled 92,486 last year, up 2 per cent from 1987, 10 per cent from 1984 and 21 per cent from 1979. An estimated 73 of every 100,000 women in the country were reported victims. More than half of the cases were resolved, with half of those arrested being white and 41 per cent under age 25.

Assaults

Aggravated assaults totalled 910,092, up 6 per cent from 1987, 33 per cent from 1984 and 45 per cent from 1979. They accounted for more than half of all reported violent crimes and the highest totals came in July and August. Blunt objects or other dangerous weapons were used in 31 per cent of the cases.

Robbery

There were more than half-million cases of robbery, up 5 per cent from 1987, 12 per cent from 1984 and 13 per cent from 1979 for a total estimated national loss

Resort's power cut off

Chaos on boardwalk

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, New Jersey, Aug 6, (UPI): A power blackout emptied bars on the boardwalk and touched off three hours of fighting, window-breaking and "chaos" among up to 20,000 people at the seaside resort early yesterday, police said.

Fighting broke out, store windows were smashed and several vehicle pilings were reported in the "chaos" that lasted about three hours, as parties streamed from taverns filled to capacity onto the boardwalk when the lights went out, police spokesman Ray Shackmann said.

People were stranded mid-air on casino pier amusement rides when a fire in a power substation knocked out the resort's electricity at 12.52 a.m.

Police estimated between 15,000 to 20,000 people were on the Boardwalk at around 1.30 a.m., but reported no major injuries on the rides or in the rioting.

"Many of the problems were caused by people who had consumed too much alcohol through course of the evening," Shackmann said, adding that 25 people were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and alcohol-related violations.

"The major problem was the number of people. At first, there was an uncontrollable amount of people and cars everywhere due to the small amount of police officers in the bureau at that time," Shackmann said.

About 200 law officers from 34 neighbouring county police departments, including 14 departments with police dogs, helped Seaside Heights police quell the disturbance, Shackmann said. Seven fire departments and 13 first-aid stations from local beaches were also on hand.

Officers from at least six police departments remained in the resort area yesterday morning.

Shackmann said police were able to set up an emergency command post outside the police station when the power failure left them with one emergency-use phone and no electricity.

Police at first described the disturbance as a riot, but at a afternoon news conference preferred the terms "pandemonium" and "chaos" to describe events.

The fire-caused power failure knocked out electricity at 12.52 a.m. to over 6,000 customers, said Jim Lowmyer, spokesman for Jersey Central Power and Light Co. All power to the affected communities was expected to be restored by 8 p.m., he said.

Of \$343-million. Firearms were used in 33 per cent of the cases, robberies on streets and highways accounted for more than half of the cases and convenience store robberies showed the greatest increase since 1987.

Last year 78 law enforcement officers were slain by criminals in the line of duty. Another 77 were killed in accidents while performing official duties.

The FBI said its figures showed a 3 per cent increase in crimes across America to 13.9 million offences in 1988. It said the 1988 total represented an average of more than 5,600 offences for each 100,000 people living in the United States.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Rock Star Billy Joel says he no longer cares for his early 1970s cult hit *Captain Jack* or his popular song *My Life*, which he describes as childish and redundant.

"My Life" is "a song that turned out soon after I was like some of your kids turn into bums," he told a master class at the performing arts centre of Long Island University's Southampton campus.

"Captain Jack" — a song about adolescent drug abuse. "Kind of burned me out quick," he added.

The master class was open to the public and included Art Garfunkel. Joel made it clear his professional career, not his private life, was the topic of the day.

"Usually, somebody wants to know, 'what does Charlie look like in the morning?'," he said, referring to his wife, model Christie Brinkley. "She looks good, so let's get that out of the way."

ATLANTA: Rob Lowe's insurance company says the actor's liability insurance doesn't cover sex tapes.

Clark Custom Insurance Co. of New Jersey filed papers in US District Court asking a judge to free it of any obligation for claims in the lawsuit over Lowe's alleged videotaping of a sex act involving a teen-age girl.

Lowe is being sued by Lisa A. Wilson for allegedly videotaping her daughter, Jan Parsons then 16, in a sex act with another female while Lowe was in Atlanta for the 1988 divorce.

Court documents indicated Lowe wrote Chubb on June 7 claiming his \$300,000 personal liability insurance policy requires the company to "provide a defence and to pay any judgement which might be returned" against him.

Lowe, star of several movies including *St Elmo's Fire* was covered for any bodily injury he caused another person and any damages as a result of any injury, but no "damage which is either expected or intended" the company said (AP).

NEW YORK: Malcolm S. Forbes, publisher, motorcycling, navel and hot-air balloonist, plans to launch a magazine aimed at "zealously awake" people who live in big cities.

The *Takeside* of *Egg* is set for spring, Forbes announced. "Symbolically," said Forbes, chairman of Forbes Inc., "the egg is the source of everything new."

"Part of the essential nature of the magazine is going to

be the thrill of discovery," he said. "Psychologically, you can never be sure what's inside an egg. You have to open it. It might be a Faberge egg."

Egg is to appear 10 times a year and cover music, film, theatre, fashion, design, celebrities, society, food, wines, and nightlife.

It will be "about the vibrant culture of those alive to the fun of being alive," Forbes said.

Hal Rubenstein, a regular contributor to magazines including *Details*, *7 Days*, *Elle* and the *New Yorker*, has been named editor of *Egg*, Forbes said.

Forbes' youngest son Timothy will be president of *Egg*. He is president of American Heritage, another magazine published by the company best known for its business biweekly, *Forbes Magazine* (AP).

MOSCOW: Residents of the Ural Mountain steel town of Nizhny Tagilsk are accustomed to area rivers running black and brown from industrial residue, but they did not expect rivers to yield gold.

The Tass news agency reported yesterday that some municipal workers volunteered to try to clean one of the most polluted rivers and were surprised when they found flakes of yellow metal in the grime.

Scientists confirmed the flakes were gold, and the workers combined panning and cleaning.

Tass said the workers collected 11 pounds (4.9 kilograms) of gold from about a mile (kilometre) of the river, and the metal was sold by city officials for \$59,000. The agency reported the money was used to buy medical equipment for the city (AP).

TAMPA, Florida: A 14-month-old girl has become the first person to successfully undergo surgery to correct a rare genetic deformity known as *Mersin Syndrome*, in which the legs are fused together, doctors said yesterday.

Timothy Yorks, 14 months, has survived longer than any other child born with the deformity called *Sirenomelia*, or *Mersin Syndrome*.

"I am not aware of any child in the medical literature that has survived beyond a few hours or days of life," said John Ogden, chief of staff at the Shriners Hospital for crippled children in Tampa (UPI).



Dance, anybody?

Prince Albert of Monaco, president of the Monaco Red Cross, and Princess Stephanie dance together as they open the Red Cross ball in Monaco on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Official commits suicide

MEXICO CITY, Aug 6, (UPI): A Cuban government official who worked as head of the finance department in the Interior Ministry for years has committed suicide, the official Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said today.

"Victim of a severe state of depression, Col. Rafael Alvarez Cueto took his life," Prensa Latina said in a dispatch monitored in Mexico City.

Quoting the afternoon daily *Juventud Rebelde*, Prensa Latina said that Alvarez left two letters to his friends and family that expressed his "dejection and shame" concerning the recent scandal that rocked the Interior Ministry among other government departments.

The dispatch did not reveal when Alvarez killed himself or whether he still held the same position in the Interior Ministry.

Prensa Latina said that Alvarez was not accused of misconduct during the ministry's reorganisation process that began June 12, when several ministry and military officials were found guilty of drug trafficking and corruption.

The Cuban authorities have been reorganising the Interior Ministry and its other departments since June 12, when President Fidel Castro's communist government publicly acknowledged that some of its officials were involved in the trafficking of cocaine and marijuana to the United States.

Since then Cuban authorities have executed four senior military and Interior Ministry officials, jailed 16 officials, including former Interior Minister Jose Abrantes and forced at least 14 officials to resign or accept demotions.

Cuba's highly-decorated Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez and former Interior Minister official Col. Antonio de la Guardia were two of the four officials executed July 13 after they were found guilty of treason, drug trafficking and corruption.

Thousands evacuated

Series of fires besiege forests

OTTAWA, Aug 6, (Reuter): From Canada's northern reaches to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, North American forests have been under siege from a series of ferocious fires.

They have cost many millions of dollars and led to the evacuation of thousands.

While forest fires are scarcely a new phenomenon, forestry experts are worried that the unprecedented fury in recent years could be a forerunner of the so-called "greenhouse effect" caused by man-made pollutants.

"It's scary. You wonder what the hell's going on," said Denis Dube, forest fire co-ordinator for the government's forestry Canada. "We've got a serious problem right across the continent."

In Canada five of the country's 10 provinces have been battling serious blazes and the amount of land lost this year — 8.2 million acres (3.28 million hectares) — is already more than twice amount lost for all of 1988.

The western province of Manitoba was forced to evacuate more than 25,000 people from remote mining communities and Indian reserves in July because of a series of blazes firefighters were unable to bring under control.

At one point the province's Emergency Affairs Minister, Albert Dreidger, declared a state of emergency, saying "virtually all of northern Manitoba is on fire."

In the western United States the Army was called in to help contain a fire in Oregon while civilian crews were battling fires in several other states.

So far 1.4 million acres (560,000 hectares) have been lost to fire in the United States this year, less than last year's record losses of 2.2 million acres (880,000 hectares) in the same period.

However, officials say that while the amount of land area blackened by fire is down from last year it still looks to be another bad year for the forests.

"The word is we're in it for the long haul," said Debbie Chivers, an information officer at the international fire centre in Boise, Idaho.

A US forest service official in Washington said last week that forest fires in the Western states this summer could be as ferocious and destructive as last year's, which were the worst in 78 years.

"The potential is there" for a repeat of last year's blazes, which blackened five million acres (two million hectares), including large portions of America's treasured Yellowstone National Park. Allan West, a forest service supervisor, said.

Fires in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana and California had destroyed about 60 buildings and other structures and forced hundreds of people to leave their homes. West said at a news conference last week.

"The fire season is really continuing to get worse. The firefighting is extremely difficult. We've got erratic winds, and we continue to get lightning so new fires are starting all the time," he said.

In the Yucatan peninsula a series of fires that raged for five months destroyed more than 370,000 acres (148,000 hectares) of forest. Ecologists said it would be 70 years before the vegetation in the northern jungle would return to normal.

In most of the fires across the continent, officials blame the unusually hot, dry conditions over the past two summers for feeding the blazes, which are caused mainly by lightning but also by human carelessness.

Forest fires have occurred for thousands of years and scientists believe they help the eco-system regenerate naturally. But more than a few experts worry that this natural process might be in danger of being perverted by the greenhouse effect, in which a buildup of gases in the atmosphere is expected to lead to higher temperatures, rising sea levels and droughts.

Such a scenario, scientists believe, would lead to more and bigger fires in the coming years.

"Over the last decades there has been a very distinct upswing in the amount of forest fires," said Charles van Wagner, an expert in fire ecology, or ecophysiology, at the Canadian National Forestry Institute near Ottawa.

"If it isn't climate change, it certainly looks like it," he told Reuters.

Sixteen firefighters, including minimum-security work camp inmates, were injured when their bus overturned on the lines of a week-old wildfire in the Sierra Nevada foothills of central California, authorities said.

The fire was one of dozens raging on a total of about 225,000 acres (90,000 hectares) in the Western United States, and officials were bracing for a new wave in the wake of hotter, continued dry weather throughout the region.

Murders all in the 'family'

Manson now 56

LOS ANGELES, Aug 6, (Reuter): Twenty years after the Tate-La Bianca murders shocked the world, devil worshippers have not forgotten Charles Manson.

The flood of fan mail that he receives in his jail cell every week includes letters from satanists who idolise one of America's most notorious killers.

Two decades later, Stephen Kay, one of the prosecutors who convicted Manson and others of the Tate-La Bianca murders, relives the case every time he argues against releasing one of the killers on parole.

"To me, it doesn't seem to have happened that long ago," he said.

The awful memories also readily come back to Doris Tate, mother of the most famous victim, actress Sharon Tate, every time she counsels other parents of murdered children.

"I relive the case but at the same time I realise how important it is for these people to fight," she said.

The murderous two-day rampage through Los Angeles also casts a spell well beyond those personally involved in the case. For some, it stands out like some bloody exclamation mark at the end of the 1960s.

"This is looked at as the most famous case in US criminal history," Kay said in an interview.

"It's a case that seems to capture the imagination not only of American people but throughout the world."

It was early on Aug 9, 1969, that four members of Manson's "family" — on a "creaky, crawling" mission — invaded the plush Beverly Hills estate rented by Tate and her husband, film director Roman Polanski. They butchered the 26-year-old starlet and four guests.

The following night, Manson himself tied up Rosemary and Leno LaBianca, the owner of a supermarket chain, in their Los Angeles home and left his followers to carve them up with silverware from the LaBianca kitchen.

Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houten were convicted of murder and sentenced to the gas chamber. But when California's death penalty law was invalidated in 1972, the sentences were commuted to indeterminate terms as long as life.

They have been eligible for parole since 1978 and the regular parole hearings help keep the case alive.

Now the 20th anniversary of the Tate-LaBianca murders is bringing public interest to a crescendo.

Kay says he has recently done television talk shows as far afield as Pittsburgh and San Francisco

and received requests for interviews from TV stations in Britain and Australia.

Numerous reasons have been advanced to explain why the case is so compelling.

There were the Hollywood celebrity victims, the gruesome details of the murders, and the young women from middle-class homes — with Xs carved in their foreheads — who carried out Manson's wishes.

There was the bizarre motive. Borrowing liberally from various sources including the Book of Revelations, Manson planned to unleash a race war he called "helter skelter," which only he and his disciples would survive.

Some have theorised that the murders sounded the death-knell of the social revolution of the 1960s. Manson had simply taken the communal lifestyle of free sex and drugs to its violent extreme.

According to Ed Sanders, author of one of the numerous books on the case, it was "the death of the hippie."

Kay, a youthful 46-year-old who still musters a grim intensity when he discusses the case, vehemently rejects that theory.

"Manson and the family hated hippies. They referred to themselves as 'slippies' because they were going to slip under the awareness of society."

"That's my bottom line," he says, pounding his desk. "They weren't hippies."

Kay is dedicated to keeping Manson — now 56 and jailed in a new maximum security prison in central California — and his "family" behind bars. The best way to do that, he says, is to keep the memories alive.

"I relive the facts of the case in every parole hearing," he said. "I make it seem like it happened yesterday to people on the Parole Board so they can relive the horror of it..."

"I want them to relive the murders so they can understand how horrible these people were and why they should never be released on parole."

Kay dismisses any possibility of rehabilitation.

"Manson hasn't changed. He doesn't put on any pretence of changing," said Kay, who adds that Manson has threatened his life three times.

He said the others were "basically model prisoners."

"But they are model prisoners for one reason — because they know that their only ticket out of prison," Kay adds.

"They can spend the rest of their lives being model prisoners. I don't want them out in society. They're nothing but trouble."

But Tate, director of the Los Angeles Chapter of parents of Murdered Children, accepts the role that her involvement in the case has thrust on her.

East Berlin: a modern Klondike

MOSCOW, Aug 6, (UPI): American, British and French soldiers based in West Berlin regularly raid stores in East Berlin and buy state-subsidised products with cheap money obtained illegally on the black market, a Soviet newspaper said yesterday.

The soldiers sell dollars and West German marks to speculators in West Berlin, who give them back East German marks at an illegal rate as much as 20 times more favourable than the official exchange level, the newspaper said.

"They come in empty-handed and leave loaded with purchases," it said. "No one would pay any attention to them but for their military uniforms — American, British and French. Everyone knows that they come from West Berlin."

official Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* said.

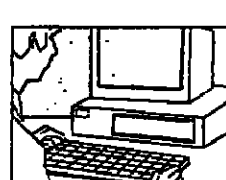
"The soldiers from the three countries that stay in West Berlin look at the capitalist of East Germany as a kind of modern Klondike," *Izvestia* said.

"They come in empty-handed and leave loaded with purchases," it said. "No one would pay any attention to them but for their military uniforms — American, British and French. Everyone knows that they come from West Berlin."

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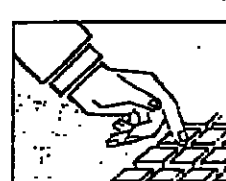
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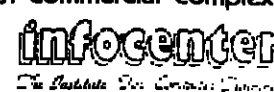
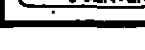
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Policeman and his bride shot by Mafia gunmen

PALERMO, Sicily, Aug 6, (UPI): Mafia gangsters blasting a shotgun from a motorbike killed a young Palermo policeman and his pregnant wife outside their house, police said today.

The attack took place in full view of 28-year-old Antonio Agostino's father and several other people on their way to a party last night.

Agostino, who had been married just a month, was the first policeman killed in Palermo since January 1988. He was not

directly involved in Mafia work but his beat covered a notorious Palermo drug addict district supplied by organised crime.

The murders occurred one day after Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti urged a new state offensive on organised crime.

But investigators said they knew no reason why the Sicilian Mafia should have singled out Agostino, the young state police officer who, with his wife Giovanni Castellucci, 20, died in a hail of bullets fired into their summer home.

Police officials said gunmen poked weapons through the shutters of the bungalow in Vilagrazia di Carini, a coastal town 20 miles (30 km) from Palermo, then opened fire. The killers escaped on motorcycles, leaving one in flames nearby.

Only Friday, Andreotti, heading a new government, told parliament that organised crime is "an authentic national emergency" and must be fought with all the state's resources. The latest killings dramatically underscored the crisis.

INTERNATIONAL

We are tired of war: Ortega

TELA, Honduras, Aug. 6. (Agencies): Central America is tired of war and the United States should co-operate with a call for disbanding the Contra rebels, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said yesterday.

Central American presidents are meeting again today after making slow progress in the first day of a summit focusing on the demobilisation of Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"We are discussing it. We are getting closer," Ortega told reporters. "The important thing is for the presidents to support a plan and to agree on a timetable," he said.

A day before the conference began, Ortega signed an agreement with his domestic opposition that calls for disbanding the Contra rebel force in Honduras in exchange for electoral and political reforms.

"President (George) Bush will have to accept reality, and the reality is that the people of Central America are tired of war. We want peace because Central Americans are dying, not Americans, and they should respect our decisions," said Ortega as he arrived for the meeting.

Ortega said the United States should take charge of disbanding the Contras and that the only thing to be discussed was "how to get the Contras out peacefully and in an orderly manner."

Although the United States halted arms supplies to the Contras in 1988, it still is providing non-lethal aid to guerrillas and family members in the Honduran mountains near the Nicaraguan border.

The Central American leaders agreed at a February summit in El Salvador to resettle the Contras, but deferred considering details until this meeting.

But Central American foreign ministers, who met separately to work on technical aspects of a plan, emerged pessimistic from their first session.

"Nothing has been resolved," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto told reporters.

The ministers were continuing a meeting suspended in Guatemala this week after El Salvador's government called for a separate plan to disband leftist Salvadoran guerrillas.

A Costa Rican source said the foreign ministers were discussing plans on demobilising both rebel groups.

"It's very premature to talk about finished documents. There is a group of elements from which we hope to draw a concrete result probably tomorrow," Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said.

Ortega said the presidents reacted positively to a proposal from the Salvadoran guerrilla movement, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), to open a dialogue with the right-wing government of President Alfredo Cristiani.

In a letter they asked Ortega to present to the summit, FMLN commanders said they were ready to open a dialogue with the government on the basis of talks they held in Mexico last week with opposition parties.

Cristiani said his government had been open to dialogue with the guerrillas since it took office in June. "They are just responding to our request," he told reporters.

The US administration has resisted moves to demobilise the Contras before elections in Nicaragua next February, saying they must be kept intact to pressure the Sandinista government to hold a free and fair poll. Contra leaders also oppose early disbandment.

The Nicaraguan government, which wants the Contras disbanded with three months, appeared to find support for its position from Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning architect of a 1987 Central American peace plan.

In meetings scheduled to last until Monday, the presidents will discuss a draft plan approved by lower-level officials from the five nations last May and calling for the Contras to be resettled in Nicaragua or other nations with help from the United Nations and International Red Cross.

Jaime Paz Zamora, a revolutionary turned social democrat, assumes the presidency of Bolivia today as head of a coalition backed by his former enemy, ex-military dictator Hugo Banzer.

"I call on all Bolivians to unite in consolidating democracy and developing our nation," Paz Zamora said after his election to a four-year term in a marathon congressional run-off that ended yesterday.

Cut military spending

NATO urges Moscow

BRUSSELS, Aug. 6. (Reuters): NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner called on the Soviet Union today to cut military spending or face failure in its social and economic reform programme.

At around 13 to 14 per cent of the country's gross national product, Soviet defence spending was a crippling burden on the economy, Woerner said.

"Perestroika (restructuring) is condemned to failure if this level of spending is maintained," he told a meeting of NATO reserve officers in Wuerzburg, West Germany.

"The 3,000 new tanks that pour out of Soviet factories each year somewhat mitigate the television pictures of a few dozen old tanks leaving Hungary," Woerner said, according to a prepared text of his speech made available in Brussels.

He was referring to cuts in conventional weapons announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in

December. Moscow plans to reduce its forces in Europe by 500,000 men and 10,000 tanks by 1990.

Woerner, a former West German defence minister, warned the West not to lower its guard because the process of change in the East Bloc would take a long time to produce irreversible results.

"Today large parts of our public opinion tend to believe that the changes we see in East-West relations have an immediate pay-off... even if everything works out in our favour, the time frame we are looking at is very much long-term," he said.

He said recent events in China served as a reminder that the success of reforms in the communist camp was not a foregone conclusion.

"A NATO that allows its defence to rust away through structural disarmament is like a driver who fails to renew his insurance policy because he has not yet had an accident."



Smile please!

US space shuttle Columbia commander Brewster Shaw waves as he walks with his wife Kathy after he and four other crewmembers arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre on Saturday. Columbia is scheduled to be launched Aug. 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shuttle crew ready to blast off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Aug. 6. (UPI): With countdown clocks ticking, the five-man crew of the veteran shuttle Columbia arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre yesterday for blastoff Tuesday on a military mission, the spaceplane's first flight since the Challenger disaster.

"We're real excited," Commander Brewster Shaw, an Air Force colonel who flew aboard Columbia in 1983, told reporters. "We need to get Columbia flying again and we're going to have the opportunity to do that. I love her. I flew her a long time ago, it's a great machine. It's a really solid vehicle."

Columbia's launch on the fifth post-Challenger flight, the third of 1989, is scheduled for between 7:30 am (11:30 GMT) and 11:30 am (15:30 GMT) Tuesday. The exact time is classified, but sources have said lift-off is planned for around 8 am (12:00 GMT).

The goal of the flight, sources say, is deployment of an advanced imaging reconnaissance satellite to spy on the Soviet Union. A small, "secondary" payload also is believed to be mounted in Columbia's cargo bay.

Columbia's 80-hour countdown began on time at 12:01 am yesterday and the ship's all-military crew arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre about 4 pm after a flight from the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. They were greeted at the shuttle runway by family members holding up a banner that read: "Go Columbia."

Asked if he had confidence in Columbia, which has not flown in 43 months, Shaw said: "Absolutely. You bet I do. If I didn't we wouldn't climb in it. It will fly well."

Shaw's crewmates are co-pilot Richard Dick Richards, 42, Army Lieutenant Colonel James Adamson, 43, Air Force Major Mark Brown, 37, and Navy Commander David Leestma, 40.

As usual, with such military space flights, NASA is keeping most details about the mission secret at the request of the Air Force.

All air-to-ground communications between mission control and the astronauts will be blacked out throughout the flight and the landing day will not be announced until 24 hours after lift-off. The flight is expected to last about four days, with landing scheduled for Edwards Air Force Base.

Columbia's 43-hour countdown, which includes about 36-1/2 hours of built-in "hold time," began on time yesterday even though work to "close out" the spaceplane's engine compartment was not complete.

NASA managers debated delaying the start of the countdown — and launch — by 24 hours because of concern technicians would not be able to get the engine room ready for flight before the countdown required engineers to begin loading fuel aboard the shuttle to power its electrical generators.

But by early yesterday, NASA officials were confident the engine room work would be finished before or shortly after the start of an eight-hour hold in the countdown at 4 pm.

Columbia has only flown once in the past six years, blasting off just 16 days before Challenger's destruction on Jan. 28, 1986.

C'wealth ministers to seek sanctions

Pressure S. Africa to end apartheid

CANBERRA, Australia, Aug. 6. (AP): A committee of Commonwealth foreign ministers meets tomorrow in Canberra to discuss imposing economic sanctions on South Africa because of its policies of racial segregation.

Conference sources said a key objective of the three-day meeting was to discuss such sanctions as Australia's proposal to persuade banks around the world to stop lending money to South Africa.

South Africa already has been hit with a range of sanctions as Australia's proposal to persuade banks around the world to stop lending money to South Africa.

South Africa already has been hit with a range of sanctions in the fields of politics, economics and sports, but they vary among nations that make up the Commonwealth, a group of former British colonies.

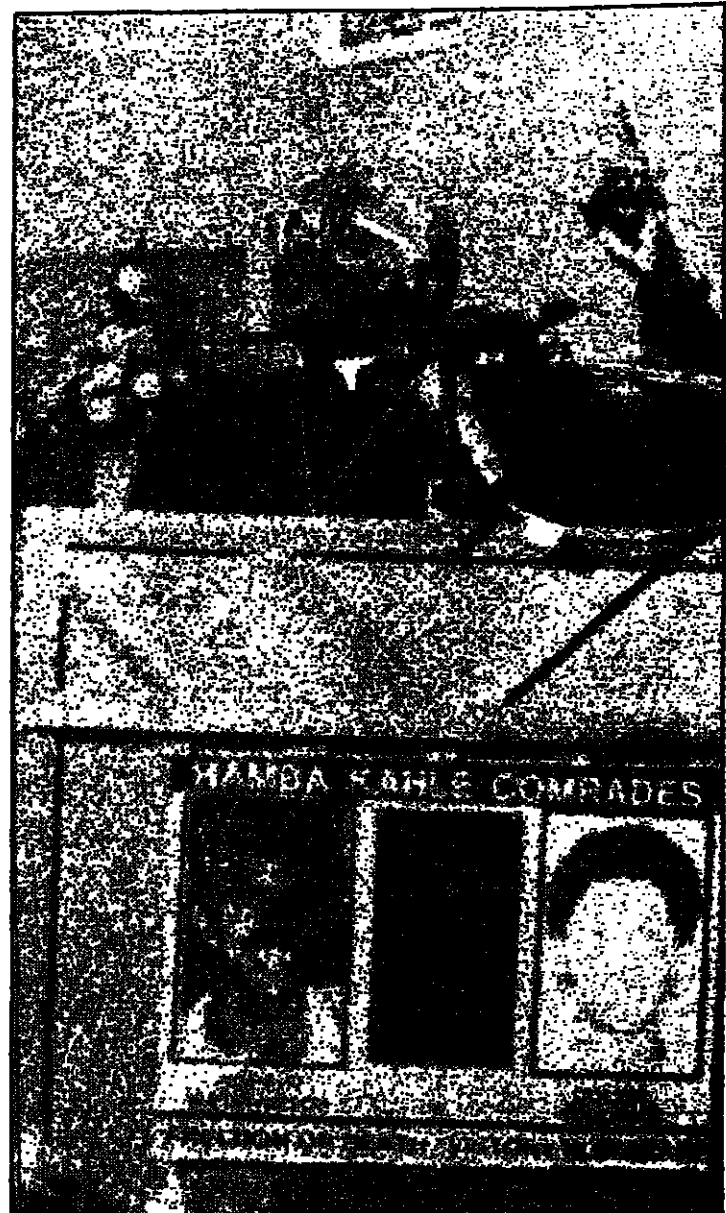
Under South Africa's policies of apartheid, the country's 28 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. The country's 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate residential districts, schools and health services.

The countries represented at the Canberra committee meeting this week will be Australia, Canada, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, India, Guyana and Malaysia. Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal also is scheduled to attend.

This week's committee session is the last of four meetings scheduled over the past two years in preparation for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this October.

Delegates to previous committee meetings have agreed that sanctions remain the most effective strategy for trying to pressure South Africa to end its apartheid policies.

"They are meeting to counter apartheid, particularly on the question of sanctions, financial links, security of the frontiers states as well as countering South African propaganda," said conference organiser Billy Williams. "The meeting will give high-level guidance... on what further steps need to be taken to combat the policy of apartheid so that it can be peacefully dismantled."



Archbishop Desmond Tutu speaks at the funeral of two African National Congress guerrillas, Robert Waterwitch and Coline Williams, who were killed two weeks ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

Foreign Minister Russell Marshall of New Zealand, host of the Commonwealth Games, will speak on the final day of the conference, Wednesday. African nations have threatened to boycott the Games, set for January, if 16 English cricket players pursue their plans for a South African tour.

Police fired tear-gas into a church yesterday to disperse mourners at a ceremony following the funeral of two black activists killed in a bomb blast, a Roman Catholic priest said.

Later, police fired tear-gas on about 50 people attempting to visit South Africa's oldest imprisoned activist, who turned 80 yesterday.

Six black men were killed in separate incidents near the southeastern city of Pietermaritzburg, the site of black faction fighting that has claimed about 2,000 lives since 1986, police said today.

Revolutionary communication

Faxing avoids censorship

Fax paper, a new trend

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (AP): The facsimile machine, a revolutionary means of sending words and pictures over phone lines, has emerged as a tool to spread news reports and dissident views in countries under press restrictions.

From the Middle East to the Soviet Union, faxes also are being used openly by political groups to communicate with their supporters and outside news organizations.

When Beijing crushed a democracy movement and cracked down on press freedom, Chinese students in the West bypassed the communist authorities by faxing foreign news reports on Chinese events to secret locations in their homeland.

In Panama, where military leader Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega has jailed critics and shut four opposition newspapers, dissidents have received much of their news by fax transmissions from the United States.

A decade ago, fax machines were high-priced curiosities that took up to six minutes to transmit a single page. The machines, first manufactured in the United States, also were prone to technical failures.

But the Japanese perfected the fax machine, cutting transmission time to as little as three seconds and prices as low as \$500. The fax became a standard for both office work and sub rosa political communication, hailed as quick and inexpensive.

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She said Freedom House's fax machine has been used frequently in recent months to collect reports on human rights abroad. The telex machine, previously used for such purposes, has gone idle.

"In Chile, many people seem to have fax machines; there are several in Paraguay and many in Panama. There are several I know of that are quite busy in South Africa," she added.

HARTFORD, Connecticut, Aug. 6. (AP): US newspapers are creating a new business with the fax machine: sending advance copies of their article and specialised news reports to private subscribers by facsimile.

Since March, the Hartford Courant, the nation's oldest continuously published newspaper, has been putting out fax paper, a one-page news summary it faxes just before 5 pm, giving a small but growing group of subscribers a glimpse of the next day's newspaper.

The 1,500-word report consists of closing stock prices, summaries of the next day's editorials, a weather forecast and one-sentence summaries of about 25 news and business stories.

"I would be surprised if there isn't a lot of development and exploitation in that area," said Everett Dennis, executive director of the Gannett Centre for Media Studies at Columbia University in New York. "People are hungry for information."

The national newspaper USA Today has been selling news by computer and fax for several years, said Phil Fulmer, vice-president of Gannett New Media, the company's research and development arm.

He said USA Today's "Decisionline" service offers 18 separate executive news summaries to businesses. Gannett is planning a partnership with MCI Communications Corp. to target fax users more aggressively, Fulmer said.

The New York Times company also is toying with the idea of selling news by fax, said company spokeswoman Nancy Nielson.

The Chinese reportedly are taking a severe look at fax transmissions there, said Fu Xin-Yuan, a New York-based Chinese activist.

He helped organise one of several "fax rings" that secretly transmitted Western reports to Beijing during the pro-democracy uprising. The reports were branded illegal by authorities, he said.

He said he began fax transmissions in April as student protests grew, but that a wave of faxing followed the Army killing of hundreds and possibly thousands of Beijing civilians June 3-4.

"Only a few people were faxing in April and May. Then after the massacre, a lot of people were," he said.

Fu said the activists tracked down fax numbers of Chinese businesses through their ads in the official Peoples' Daily and other newspapers. He said the activists sent faxes blindly, developing contacts by hit and miss.

The single-page faxes, carrying photos and reports from Chinese-language newspapers in the United

States, were photocopied and distributed, according to activists who later left China.

"Yes, they got through. It was exciting," Fu said. "I think faxing gave moral support to the students back in China."

The fax also has become the means of choice for Panamanian dissidents to communicate with anti-Noriega exiles, especially in Miami and Washington, circumventing censorship and eavesdropping by government security agents.

"Fax and photocopies (are) the No. 1 means of communication," Panamanian opposition figure Ricardo Arias Calderon declared last year.

Anti-Noriega groups use the device to keep exiles informed of what is going on inside the country. Exiles use it extensively to send newspaper and magazine articles published abroad that are unfavourable to Noriega's rule.

These are then copied and distributed clandestinely among Panamanians.

Pran ... oramic

A run for the Rouge

BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug. 6. (AP): "The Killing Fields," a movie about the Khmer Rouge terror of the 1970s in Cambodia, has been shown in a theatre in that nation's capital for the first time, the official Cambodian news agency SPK reported today.

The screening was at Phnom Penh's Bassa Theatre Hall on Friday, said the brief report, monitored in Bangkok.

The film's British director, Roland Joffe, and a principal character, American journalist Sydney Schanberg, went to Phnom Penh to attend the premiere.

The 1984 Academy Award winning movie depicts how Schanberg and his Cambodian assistant Dith Pran were separated as the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh in 1975 to begin its murderous rule.

The two men were reunited after Dith Pran escaped a re-education camp and journeyed to the Thai border.

The Khmer Rouge is the largest guerrilla group fighting the current Cambodian government, which Vietnam installed after invading the country in late 1978.

Factions support mission

BANGKOK, Aug. 6. (Reuters): A United Nations fact-finding mission which will go to Cambodia next week has been given full support by all four fighting factions, the Norwegian mission head said today.

Lieutenant-General Martin Vadset said the aim was to establish the conditions for international monitoring of a possible settlement of the 10-year conflict.

Vietnam has promised to withdraw its forces from Cambodia by the end of September.

Vadset, a key figure in negotiating peace in the Iraq war, told reporters: "All factions and neighbouring countries have been very helpful in giving support."

He was speaking as the mission assembled in the Thai capital before flying to Phnom Penh tomorrow.

The mission will spend eight or nine days in Phnom Penh before visiting Cambodian resistance camps along the Thai side of the border. It will then report back to the international conference on Cambodia in Paris towards the end of the month.

Vadset said the 15-member team included representatives from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Jamaica and Poland.

He said his mission would not deal with the issue of repatriating refugees camped along the Thai border.

The refugees have formed a major basis of support for the three guerrilla factions which form the UN-recognised coalition government of democratic Kampuchea.



Head of UN fact-finding team for Cambodia Lt-Gen. Martin Vadset shortly after his arrival at Bangkok airport yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

28 per cent of Canadians favour Quebec's independence: poll

MONTREAL, Aug. 6. (AP): The Quebec issue in Canadian politics, thought to be diminishing since provincial voters rejected separatism nearly a decade ago, has returned.

A recent Gallup poll that sent shock waves rumbling across the country found that 28 per cent of Canadians believe French-speaking Quebec should become an independent country.

The outcome, according to Gallup, was the strongest support for separatism nationally since the company's pollsters first asked the question more than 20 years ago.

Perhaps the most startling finding from the

1,034 Canadians polled was that 27 per cent of English-speaking Canadians favoured the province's separation from French-speaking Canadians was 36 per cent.

There long has been resentment in parts of English-speaking Canada, especially in the West, of what is perceived as favouritism or special treatment for Quebec. But the percentage of those who would just as soon see it leave had not been perceived to be that high.

"The heartbeat of the nation is strong, it's vigorous and it's resolved to even greater unity," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who is a

Quebec native, told reporters after the Gallup poll was published.

Mulroney conceded that some linguistic tensions exist in Canada but said that always has been the case in national history.

"Years from now, a Canadian prime minister will be standing here with a Canada that is even more prosperous and more united, and people will be asking him the same question: 'someone went out and did a poll'..." he said.

Indeed, a focus in the Canadian news media on the national unity issue may be as much a result of a languid summer season without

much else attracting attention as to any concrete developments in Quebec.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa appears virtually certain to win the election expected in early fall, possibly with an even greater margin of victory for his provincial Liberal Party than in 1985 when it won 99 of 122 seats in the Quebec legislature.

The Parti Quebecois that found success with its separatist message in the 1970s has fallen on hard times, and the economic prosperity that has lasted in Quebec along with most of Canada for seven years makes this an unlikely time for comeback.

Citizens' essays on Chinese turmoil reflect official version

BEIJING, Aug 6, (AP) — A Beijing newspaper has been publishing citizens' accounts of the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement — all of them strictly reflecting the official version of events.

The essays echo the party line: that soldiers who moved in on June 3-4 acted with restraint, and about 300 people died, including dozens of soldiers. Western observers, including hundreds of journalists, said the Army

fired wildly at crowds and buildings, and the death toll may have been in the thousands.

The essay contest shows the continued appetite of the official media for commentaries, letters and essays on what it calls the "quelling of the counter-revolutionary rebellion."

The newspaper said the only requirements for the essays is that they "touch the soul" and are true.

The author of one account, Xu Dingjiang, wrote that he watched soldiers "with tears in their hearts and guns in their hands" restrain themselves from firing on a crowd that torched their vehicles.

"Blood was shed here," his essay was titled. One woman wrote that her neighbour had spread the word that soldiers had turned Tiananmen Square into a crematorium for protesters they killed while crushing the

protests.

But the essayist, Niu Hui, said after the neighbour "understood the true situation" from government accounts, she was "very embarrassed" over what she had said.

Niu, Xu and the other entrants, whose works began appearing in the tabloid Beijing Evening News last week, are competing for prizes to be given in November, the amount still undisclosed. Eight other papers or telev-

ision stations are co-sponsoring the contest.

Interest in the party lie on the protests appears to be fading, however. Many Beijing residents said they watched the first television documentary on the protest several weeks ago, a four-part series.

But three more documentaries have been aired since, the latest tonight, and hardly anyone seems to be watching.

"I have better things to do," said one local

shopkeeper after documentary No 3.

Many columns criticising ousted Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, for example, have accused him of such liberalism that he is becoming more popular to ordinary Chinese than he ever was in office.

"It turns out Zhao was pretty good," one worker said after attending political study class at which Zhao was criticized.



Prime Minister Soudouke Uno approaches the A-bomb memorial cenotaph to lay down a wreath at peace park during a memorial service marking the 44th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, today. Doves flutter (right) over the park during the service. (Reuters wirephoto)

50,000 flock to peace park

HIROSHIMA, Aug 6, (UPI) — White doves of peace were freed into the hot summer sky and thousands of people bowed their heads in silence near a bomb-damaged memorial today to mark the 44th year since the first atomic bomb attack began the end of World War II.

A crowd of 50,000 gathered in downtown Peace Memorial Park to join millions more throughout Japan in observing a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m. the moment a US B-29 warplane dropped the first atom bomb in history against an enemy on the port city on Aug. 6, 1945.

In less than 0.3 seconds, the bomb leveled the centre of Hiroshima, instantly incinerating thousands.

The official death toll, including those who died from the aftereffects of radiation, stood at 157,071, city records show.

Three days after the blast, a second atomic bomb

was dropped on Nagasaki, causing the late Emperor Hirohito to declare Japan's unconditional surrender to Allied Forces on Aug. 15, 1945.

On Sunday, the names of 4,434 people who died from the effects of the Hiroshima blast within the last year were added to a granite cenotaph in the Peace Memorial Park near the centre of the impact.

"Let all the souls here rest in peace — for we shall not repeat the evil," reads the message on the cenotaph.

Prime Minister Soudouke Uno, in his last major official duty before stepping down later in the week, laid a wreath of yellow and white chrysanthemums before the granite memorial and its eternal flame.

"We swear firmly ... to put out whole heart and soul into attaining the ideal of abolishing nuclear weapons as well as complete disarmament as the

final purpose of humankind," Uno said in a speech. At the end of the 50-minute service, held near the bomb-scarred ruins of the Hiroshima Dome, which has been left as a stark reminder of the firestorm, 1,500 white doves symbolizing peace were released into the sky.

The mayor of Hiroshima, in his annual address, said the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty (INF) signed between the United States and the Soviet Union, can serve as a starting point for global disarmament.

"The cold-war framework of East-West relations structured around relations between the United States and the Soviet Union is beginning to crumble after having defined postwar politics for so long, and the world is groping its way toward a new order of international peace," Mayor Takeshi Araki said.

Tibetans jailed for roles in unrest

BEIJING, Aug 6, (Reuters) — Ten Tibetans had been jailed for rioting, destruction of property and "counter-revolutionary" activities during anti-Chinese unrest in March that killed at least 16 people in Lhasa, the state-run New China News Agency said today.

The report was one of the few official accounts of the fate of the hundreds of Tibetans believed arrested since the separatist uprising. The sentences were light by Chinese standards.

It said a Lhasa court had jailed Bianba for three years for "counter-revolutionary riot activities, taking the lead in shouting reactionary slogans and damaging public property."

Lhasa Toinzhub was sentenced to two-and-a-half years for "smashing, looting and setting fire to public property," and eight others to terms of less than two years, it added, giving no further details.

Hong Kong's pro-Beijing Ta Kung Pao newspaper last month said only about 20 people were being held in Lhasa for crimes in connection with the unrest. Tibetan sources said in March more than 1,000 were arrested immediately after the uprising.

The official death toll of 16 dead was also disputed in March by doctors and Tibetan residents in the city, who said many more had been killed.

Hong Kong governor Sir David Wilson arrived in London today for his first meeting with Britain's new Foreign Secretary, John Major.

Wilson said he would be briefing Major on "everything that has been going on in Hong Kong," the British colony due to revert to China in 1997.

Shanghai's mayor has been named the city's Communist Party chief, replacing Jiang Zemin, who was appointed National Party leader following China's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, the official Xinhua news agency reported today.

Zhu Rongji, who was elected mayor 17 months ago, will fill both posts simultaneously, as Jiang did until Zhu replaced him as mayor last year.

Jiang was named National Party general secretary on June 24. He succeeded Zhao Ziyang, who was stripped of all his posts because of his alleged support for the democracy movement that was crushed on June 3-4 when troops killed hundreds, perhaps thousands, of students and their supporters.

Executed

A man has been executed in southeastern China for murdering a woman member of China's national legislature, an official newspaper reported today.

The Beijing daily said Yuan Zihu was executed yesterday in Yong'an, in Fujian province, after a court found him guilty of murdering 38-year-old Feng Yimiao on June 6. It did not give Yuan's age.

Sunday's report did not mention or imply any connection between Feng's political position and her murder.

Sixteen months ago, China's railway minister resigned in disgrace after three major train disasters. Today, his name and face appear in the news with surprising frequency.

Ding Guangen, 60, is one of the rising stars in the new leadership following the June 3-4 military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.

He resigned in March 1988 after two train collisions and a train fire in 17 days killed 141 people. He had been railway minister for less than three years when he stepped down in what one Western analyst called "a rare display of ministerial responsibility" for China.

Storms, floods in Japan

TOKYO, Aug 6, (AP) — Tropical storm Mac pelted areas near Tokyo with heavy rain today, flooding 95 houses, triggering landslides and damaging roads, police reported.

High winds at about noon (0300 GMT) at Tokyo's International Airport, at Narita in Chiba prefecture, or state, forced four arriving airplanes, including three international flights of Korean Air, British Airways and Japan Airlines, to land instead in Nagoya, in central Japan, or Osaka, in western Japan.

Landslides were reported at nine places and roads were damaged at 48 places in Chiba, east of Tokyo, and six neighboring prefectures, said an official of the national police agency.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a 57-year-old man suffered leg injuries when strong winds blew down some decorations at a funeral in Saitama prefecture, immediately west of Tokyo.

The Maritime Safety Agency, Japan's coast guard, said there were no reports of major damage to ships.

Drunk cop dismissed

BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug 6, (AP) — A drunken policeman who stood repeatedly on the chest of a drug addict who jumped from a Bangkok building has been dismissed from duty pending an investigation, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Bangkok Metropolitan Police Chief Lt Gen Manas Krutchaiyan said Suraphol Thiangsakul, 29, a cripple with a history of drug addiction, was in critical condition with head injuries and a fractured back after jumping from a building Thursday.

Before jumping, the man used a knife to cut himself in the arms, legs and face, Manas said.

He said three policemen, headed by Capt. Suebphon Chansri and all apparently drunk, tried to provoke Suraphol to jump from the building.

Drive to restore trust

TOKYO, Aug 6, (AP) — The front-runner in Japan's race for prime minister was reported today planning a grass-roots drive to restore the public's trust in politics if he becomes head of the scandal-plagued governing party.

Toshiki Kaifu, 58, a former education minister with reform credentials but little personal clout, faces two other candidates in a Tuesday vote for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Analysts consider Kaifu a strong leader in the race because he has the backing of four of the six factions of his party.

But the vote will be a secret ballot of the party's 405 members of parliament and 47 chapter members, so it remained possible for the party's restive membership to vote against the power-brokers' choice without their rebellion being known.

Running against Kaifu are Yoshiro Hayashi, 62, a former welfare minister who has called for more open politics, and is backed by one of the larger factions, and Shintaro Ishihara, 56, a novelist, legislator and representative of the nationalist wing in the party.

The three appeared together on live television yesterday to explain their views after they were accepted as the only nominees to replace Prime Minister Soudouke Uno, who was virtually hand-picked by his predecessor, Noboru Takeshita.

Uno took office June 2 hoping to overcome the Recruit Co. influence-peddling scandal that caused Takeshita's downfall, but then was disgraced by allegations he kept paid mistresses. He decided to step down after the party's severe loss in the July 23 election.

All three candidates said they backed political reform

Geisha girls

TOKYO, Aug 6, (KUNA) — Following the sex scandal of Japanese premier Soudouke Uno for his involvement with a geisha girl, many local Japanese sources were at pains to insist that geisha girls are not immoral.

They said that these girls are not prostitutes as many may think, but sing and dance in clubs and restaurants and have great ability of conversation to entertain rich men.

Their duty is to bring an atmosphere of fun and joy during meetings between politicians, businessmen and men of arts.

The geisha system came to light in the middle of the 17th century and men used to perform the girls' role at that time.

The estimated number of girls working in geisha clubs in 1920 was 18,000 but the number declined when Japan imposed compulsory recruitment in the thirties.

And in the forties the geisha girls were banned from entertaining men other than military men, as most of the girls went to work in factories during that period.

By the late seventies the number of geisha girls had dropped to 17,000 and has declined further now, but the number is not known as police do not force them to report on their activities as the case was during the war.

measures to revitalise their party and said they would review the unpopular new 3 per cent sales tax that was a major factor in the Liberal Democrats' loss of their upper house majority for the first time.

Kaifu said in an interview published today in the conservative Mainichi Shimbun that his selling points were "youth and vitality," and he intended to go out among the people to help overcome what he admitted was his lack of experience at the top levels of government.

"I would like to hear what the people have to say about political reform and the (sales) tax. I want to hold dialogues in various sections of the nation," the Mainichi quoted him as saying.

Kaifu is a member of the par-

ty's reform committee set up to form new anti-corruption rules, and he was an aide to a reforming prime minister of the 1970s, Takeo Miki, who tried to clean up Japanese politics after the scandal-plagued 1972-74 premiership of Kakuei Tanaka.

With implementation of political reform measures now being considered by parliament and the governing party, Kaifu said he hoped that "public distrust will melt away."

Parliament reconvenes tomorrow for a weeklong session expected to show whether the socialist-led majority in the upper house will create legislative deadlocks with the more powerful lower house, where the Liberal Democrats have a large majority.

Mayor shot to death by Filipino gunmen

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 6, (AP) — Gunmen ambushed and shot to death the mayor of a northern town while suspected communist rebels raided a town in the central Philippines over the weekend, officials reported today.

Romulo Liclican, mayor of Diffun Town in Quirino province, was killed and his driver was wounded in the ambush yesterday morning, reports from the Philippine Constabulary headquarters and the state-run Philippine News Agency said.

The two were attacked while passing a village in Cordon, some 140 miles (224 kilometres) northeast of Manila and five miles (eight kilometres) northwest of Diffun, the reports said.

Authorities did not immediately know the identity or motive of the attackers.

On Friday, some 200 New People's Army rebels attacked the town of Llorente, 380 miles (608 kilometres) southeast of Manila on

the eastern coast of insurgency-torn Samar Island, and killed an employee in a raid on the town hall, the military reported.

The rebels searched houses for firearms and soldiers and fled with five M-16 rifles, radio transceivers and ammunition in vehicles commandeered from a mining company, a constabulary report said.

The NPA has been fighting for 20 years to establish a Marxist state in the Philippines.

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MIDEAST

Highlights

Military action: A former US intelligence official was quoted here yesterday as saying a military action would take place to release Western hostages in Lebanon if the diplomatic efforts reach an impasse in the next ten days.

Former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Ray Cline told the "Journal Du Dimanche" weekly newspaper that there will be no hope for releasing hostages in Lebanon if the diplomatic efforts between the US, Soviet Union, Israel, Syria and Iran fail.

"Then it will be essential to command a military operation to release the hostages," said Cline, "and in my opinion the operations must strike at Hezbollah camps and their training installations in the Bekaa valley." (KUNA)

US must change policy: Syria told UN Envoy Marrack Gouding yesterday it wanted the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon but this could only be achieved if the United States changed its policies. Syrian officials said.

They quoted Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara as telling Gouding that Syria, the main foreign power broker in neighbouring Lebanon, would continue efforts to free the 17 Western hostages on humanitarian grounds.

"Shara stressed that finding the appropriate climate for solving this problem depended on the United States and its way of dealing with others," one official said. (Reuters)

Soviet efforts: A Soviet diplomat yesterday said Moscow has joined in the flurry of diplomatic manoeuvring to try to free Western hostages held by Shiite extremists who continue to insist on the release of a Muslim cleric as a precondition for negotiation.

The Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Vassili Kolotosha, said in a statement issued that "efforts to settle the hostage issue have been essentially pushed forward."

"In response to a request by the United States, the Soviet Union has been conducting contacts with regional parties to help reach a political settlement to the hostages matter," the statement said.

The Soviet ambassador appeared to be hinting that Syria, Moscow's main regional ally, and Iran, who has recently been seeking better relations with its communist neighbour, were being asked by the Kremlin to exert pressure on their Lebanese Shiite allies.

In London, the Sunday Express quoted "senior White House officials" as saying that "President Bush has secretly offered to give back nearly £3 billion of Iran's money" in return for Iranian efforts to secure release of the hostages in Lebanon. (UPI)

Berri sees no prospects: Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri said yesterday he saw no immediate prospect of the release of Israeli servicemen and Western hostages believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Berri told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio after meeting UN special envoy Marrack Gouding in Damascus that he did not expect an Israeli-proposed prisoner swap to succeed.

Asked whether he had told Gouding there was no chance of the hostages being released at the moment, Berri replied: "That's what I believe." (Reuters)

Murphy accuses Israel: Richard Murphy, former assistant secretary of state for Mideast affairs, yesterday accused Israel of helping set the stage for the present hostage crisis by invading Lebanon in 1982.

The crisis was precipitated when Israeli commandos kidnapped a Muslim cleric in Lebanon two weeks ago, which shortly was followed by the apparent execution of American hostage William Higgins, a US marine corps officer who had been stationed in Lebanon with a United Nations observer team.

Speaking on the "Meet the Press" interview programme, Murphy said although Israel's Lebanon invasion by itself was not the catalyst, it was "the last of the blows to the Lebanese political structure and it was the final one which brought us to this state of chaos and anarchy you've got today." (KUNA)

Strike against Israel: Israel's abduction of Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid made Lebanese Muslim groups even more determined to strike against Israel and its allies. An Iranian newspaper said yesterday.

"If any group doubted the infliction of blows on Israel and the US before the Zionist abduction of Obeid, they are now resolute in their decision that there is no alternative but inflicting heavy blows on Zionist occupiers and their supporters," Jomhuri Eslami said. (Reuters)

UK asked help: A British newspaper, the Sunday Telegraph, yesterday reported that the UK has asked Algeria to intercede on behalf of the UK hostages held in Lebanon. Intensive Algerian efforts were under way in Beirut to negotiate release of all Western hostages.

The paper quoted a "British diplomat in the Middle East" as saying "the chances are better now than they have been."

In the meantime, another newspaper, the Observer, used its editorial to express the hope that it was now possible "we are at the beginning of the last chapter of the awful hostage story in Lebanon."

But it was cautious to point out that the beginning is not the end itself. (KUNA)

Vatican's request: The Vatican has asked a senior cleric in Beirut to try to have the body of William Higgins, the American hostage reported hanged by his pro-Iranian captors, returned to its family, a Vatican source said yesterday.

Focus

The view in Washington

The Arab Times is publishing these interviews with top American officials in an effort to reflect the American point of view on the hostage crisis.

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: Secretary of State James Baker was interviewed by American journalists Sam Donaldson and Diane Sawyer on the debut of ABC-TV's new evening news show, "Prime-Time Live", Aug 3. The following is a transcript of the interview:

A: Mr Secretary, Chris Wallace reports that the Israelis think we are, to put it in a word, wimps about this. That our policy isn't tough enough.

A: Well, you know we have a different policy. Sam, than Israel does. We don't believe that you can negotiate with terrorists. Israel is centrally located there in the region. They do negotiate. They grab people, and they make trades and make swaps. It's something that they're a lot better positioned to do than the United States. We are concerned that if we get into the business of negotiating with terrorists, or swapping, trying to trade with terrorists, we'll just have a lot more Americans grabbed all around the world. So, we have a different policy approach. We understand and appreciate their policy approach, and I think the government of Israel understands and appreciates our policy approach.

Q: We don't mind, Mr Secretary, if Israel does arrange a swap with the kidnappers?

A: We really don't take a position on it, Sam. We can't. Because to take a position that we encourage them to do it, of course, would violate our policy. To take a position that they shouldn't do it would violate their policy, or at least it would be our saying, no, you can't pursue your own policy. They are a sovereign state. So, we basically say, we don't concur in it, nor do we object to it.

Q: Let me ask you to take a position. The INSERT is reporting tomorrow that if Joseph Cicippio had in fact been killed today, which of course that goodness he wasn't, that President Bush was prepared to bomb Ba'albek, one of the terrorist centres in the Bekaa Valley. Is that correct?

A: Well, of course that's very hypothetical, and very speculative. Let me simply say that in this business it would be wrong to foreclose options, but it's equally wrong, I think, to speculate about options, particularly under hypothetical situations.

Q: Since you've been in office, Mr Secretary, have you seen anything like practicable, a sensible, possible plan to rescue the hostages? Have you seen anything that you think even comes close?

A: It's a very difficult situation that we're faced with. With hostages in that particular area of the Middle East. You know the United States struck back and struck back with vigour against terrorism in the case of Libya when we had a situation not long ago where we knew Libya had engaged in a state-sponsored terrorist act against American servicemen — we bombed Tripoli. There was no hesitation, we went right in there and did it. The situation is different here. We have eight American lives at stake, at the very least, because we have eight other hostages there. We have a different situation with respect to targets. So, it's nowhere near as easy to resolve as the situation where you have state-sponsored terrorism.

Q: Mr Secretary, let me just put it the way it's usually put in these cases. Are you saying the lives of these eight Americans are really more important than any other consideration of foreign policy of the United States?

A: I'm not saying that, Sam. But I'm saying that the lives of these eight Americans are very important to us, and I think that the lives of these eight Americans should be very important to us.

Q: The Israelis say that the way to teach terrorists a lesson is to teach them that there is a cost.

A: Well, there's something to be said for that and that's what we did in the case of Libya. If there were as equally an effective way to do that under the current circumstances of these people that are held in different places by small groups in locations that don't offer the same kind of targeting opportunities, and so forth, we could follow that policy approach. That is not the situation on the ground with respect to our hostages in Lebanon.

Q: Thank you very much, Secretary Baker. We appreciate your coming tonight.

President Bush says he is "pleased" by an offer from Iranian President Rafsanjani to help resolve the hostage crisis in Lebanon. "When you see a statement that offers hope for the return of our hostages, I want to explore it to the fullest," the president told reporters Aug 4.

Rafsanjani reportedly told a mass prayer meeting in Tehran, "I address the White House: there is... a solution for freeing the hostages. Take a sensible attitude, and we will help solve the problems there so that people of the region may live in peace and friendship."

Bush appealed to countries everywhere to "lay aside this holding of people against their will" and to "do what is right and decent and honourable in terms of the release of those hostages that are still held." He asked "a full accounting in the case of Colonel Higgins — a distinguished officer who was wearing the uniform of the United Nations."

The following is a transcript of Bush's remarks on the hostage issue, which were made after he received proposed legislation on the Line-item Veto act of 1989:

Q: Mr President, what do you make of Rafsanjani's offer to help resolve the hostage crisis?

A: We have engaged in a very — an extraordinarily broad exercise of diplomacy here in the last couple of days, and let me say, I am pleased about that. I don't know what it means fully, but I think the world is familiar with our policy. But there will be nothing that will be done ever that will create a new incentive for taking somebody else hostage.

But I feel the burden of going to every end possible to try to find — get the return of these Americans to their loved ones and find out the truth about Colonel Higgins.

Q: What do you think was the motivating factor for the freeze on the execution? And where do you go from here?

A: I'd like to think that a broad-spread appeal to nations in every corner of the globe had something to do with it. And many...

Q: You don't know?

A: I don't know for sure. And the response that I have had on my personal calls and that the secretary has had on his, has been heartwarming. It's come from all sectors, and I have been very, very encouraged by that. And where we go from here, though, we'll just keep on trying.

Q: Mr President, what has Iran's role been in this? And do you see an opening in the structure here to allow you to work for the release of the hostages?

A: Well, I just answered, I was certainly pleased that that brutal murder that had been threatened was set aside. I don't know the total role of any individual country in that area of all of this, but when you see a statement that offers hope for the return of our hostages, I want to explore it to the fullest.

Q: Have you made a decision to take military action if another American hostage is killed?

A: If I had made such a decision, I expect this would be the last place I'd be talking about it.

Q: Well, surely, you must see this as a golden opportunity now — you have the momentum, you have a diplomatic flurry going on in Damascus, International Red Cross, apparently, I mean, is there a new impetus?

A: I'm encouraged, but I don't want to get the hopes of the hostages' loved ones up once again to have those hopes dashed. This is a brutal process where you see people paraded before cameras and their families get their hopes up. My heart is still with Mrs Higgins. We can't tell her with any definition what — of her husband's fate. And I have made appeal after appeal for the return of Colonel Higgins' remains, if, indeed, he has been killed.

And so, you deal with what you have out there, and what is foremost on my mind are the families of these, and the hostages themselves. And I don't want to raise hopes beyond fulfillment, but there's reason to be somewhat encouraged. But I think of the brutality of the process — a man condemned to die at 11:00 am and then it's moved to 3:00 pm in the afternoon. Put yourself in the position of these families; think of the hurt that just that four hours, of experience causes somebody. And I would just appeal to the civilised world, or any country anywhere in the world, to lay aside this holding of people against their will and do what is right and decent and honourable in terms of the release of those hostages that are still held, and a full accounting in the case of Colonel Higgins — a distinguished officer who was wearing the uniform of the United Nations.

'Cicippio walks if ...'

(Continued from Page 1)

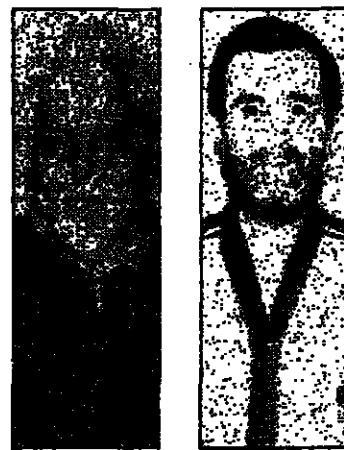


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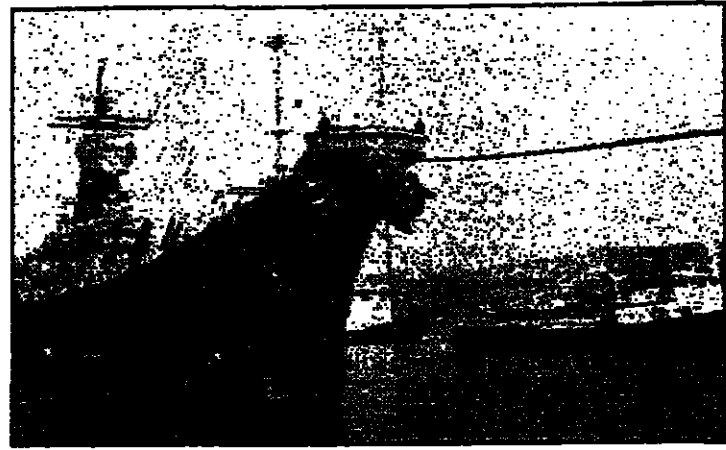
File photo of the US helicopters crashed in the Iranian desert during the failed mission to rescue the American hostages held in the US embassy in Tehran, taken April 27, 1980. Despite an array of powerful and accurate US weapons covering the Middle East, experts say history and a lack of key intelligence give President Bush little hope of rescuing American hostages in Lebanon. (Reuter wirephoto)



Sheikh Subhi Rifa'at, a senior member of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah at a press conference in a Shiite suburb denied there were any negotiations for exchange of prisoners or hostages.



Reproduction of photographs of Cicippio (right) and Austin Tracy (left) issued to the newspapers in West Beirut. (Reuter wirephoto)



The US Navy warship USS Iowa is pulled away from the docks in France on Wednesday after a routine courtesy visit. The Iowa recently returned to service after a gun turret explosion in which 47 were killed in April 19. (Reuter wirephoto)



US President George Bush (right) talks with Chief of Staff John Sununu (left), National Drug Control policy director William Bennett (2nd from left) and deputy to Chief of Staff Andy Card in the White House Oval Office on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush: 'These are not easy days' Roads and roadblocks

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): George Bush had watched a hostage crisis help destroy one president and ensnare another in scandal, so he knew full well he was plunging into high-risk territory when terrorists claimed to have killed one American and set an execution date for another in Lebanon.

For the first six months of his presidency, Bush had been largely spared from any pressures over the hostages' plight, even though nine of the 16 or 17 hostages remaining in Lebanon are American.

That suddenly changed after Israeli commandos last Friday seized a Shiite Muslim cleric in Lebanon. Three days later, a shadowy organisation called the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth declared it had hanged Marine Lt Col William R. Higgins and released a videotape purportedly showing the execution.

Suddenly, Bush began to feel the sting of experience that had bludgeoned Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Bush spoke of "the overwhelming events" of the hostage crisis and commented, "These are not easy days."

With telephone calls to world leaders on behalf of the hostages, Bush initiated what his press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, called "the most defined and high-level diplomatic effort I have ever seen" in the Bush and Reagan administrations.

Complaining of inadequate intelligence from Lebanon, Bush anguished with "a heavy heart" for four days over Higgins and awaited word on a hostage Joseph Cicippio, under a death threat from the Radical Revolutionary Justice organisation.

After a long suspense, as the White House waged its intense diplomatic effort and the Defence Department put on a display of military muscle in the Middle East, Cicippio got a temporary reprieve from his captors.

No one knew for sure why Cicippio's sentence was suspended. "I like to think that a broad-spread appeal to nations in every corner of the globe had some-

thing to do with it," Bush said. The outcome spared Bush — at least temporarily — from pressure to find an appropriate way to punish the terrorists without endangering the remaining hostages or innocent civilians.

Even so, Bush said Friday, "I feel the burden of going to every end possible to... get the return of these Americans to their loved ones and find out the truth about Col Higgins."

Such a burden can be perilous to presidents.

Carter's White House became branded as a presidency held hostage by the 441-day captivity of Americans in Iran. The ordeal, including a disastrous rescue attempt, helped drive him from office.

For Reagan, the kidnapping of Americans in Lebanon led the White House into the improbable Iran-Contra affair with embarrassing revelations about criminal wrongdoing and clumsy attempts to trade arms for hostages.

William Schneider, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think

tank, said Bush "looked the same way all presidents look when they get into a hostage crisis. He looked ineffectual and the United States look helpless."

"He's under pressure to do something and there's nothing he can do," Schneider said. "He rediscovered a lesson he should have learned... to resist the temptation to allow these things to become a serious national crisis because you cannot control events."

On the other hand, Stephen Hess, a presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution, said Bush had performed well.

"He's a naturally cautious man and this is one of those times when it was probably useful," Hess said. He said Bush had learned from the experiences of Carter and Reagan.

With the announcement of Higgins' death, Bush cut short a speech-making trip in the West and rushed back to Washington, hurriedly ordered a meeting Monday with military, diplomatic and national security advisers, and then delivered a briefing to congressional leaders.

High-ranking military officials were seen entering the White House carrying large charts and maps, giving rise to speculation that a military strike was being planned.

But nothing happened after the apparent shift to a crisis mode.

At the Tuesday morning meeting of top White House aides, Chief of Staff John Sununu emphasised the limitations Bush faced in trying to employ military options.

Stephen Studdert, a high-ranking aide, described Bush as "outraged, incensed, but cognizant of the limitations on his options and the need to be responsible."

Bush himself acknowledged in a 1986 report on terrorism that retaliation was not an easy course. "Our principles of justice will not permit random retaliation against groups of countries," the report said.

The White House began to reverse course. There was no crisis and the government was not being immobilised by terrorists, Fitzwater said Tuesday.

Israel says Obeid, 36, was a major force behind scores of attacks by Hezbollah fighters against Israeli troops and their allies who control a border security strip in the south.

Some of Jibsheet's 12,000 Shiite residents said Israel's invasion of south Lebanon in 1982 had generated fierce hatred for the Jewish state among villagers, including Obeid.

His family, moderate Shiites, said he decided to study theology in Lebanon after attending the haj pilgrimage to Mecca with his parents in 1980.

On his return from revolutionary Iran in 1983, he dedicated his life to spreading Khomeini's teachings to Jibsheet's youth.

He took over as the village cleric, replacing Sheikh Ragheb Harb who was killed by Israeli soldiers in 1983.

Obeid lived under Israeli occupation for three years and was arrested twice for questioning, his wife Mona said. He first emerged as having links to hostage-taking when US Colonel William Higgins — said by a radical group to have been hanged in reprisal for Obeid's abduction — was kidnapped in February 1988.

Security sources in the south said Abu Hussein, Hezbollah's military co-ordinator in the area, seized Higgins in co-ordination with Obeid.

Arens said he has been in contact almost daily with US Secretary of State James Baker. He told Baker one of the successes of last week's Lebanese hostage crisis was the evidence that Cicippio was alive and "his chances of staying alive are stronger."

Elsewhere, Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite militia Amal, predicted efforts to arrange negotiations would fail because of Israel's kidnapping of Obeid. "I don't think they will succeed," he said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

However, UN mediator Marrack Gouding said that families of hostages in Lebanon should not lose hope.

"My message is that they must never, ever lose hope. They must understand that this is an extraordinarily difficult and complex situation... you can't flip a switch and produce the results you want," he said.

Gouding added there is a "kind of subdued optimism" about the prospects for arranging a hostage swap.

US hostage Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins.

Musawi said American "threats to strike targets in Lebanon are meaningless... the Americans have the mentality of cowboys. Nobody can threaten us with death, we are ready to die and face our God."

Israeli cabinet minister Ehud Olmert said today that Israel would not free Obeid in exchange for Cicippio unless three Israeli soldiers were included in the swap.

"It is imperative that in any such exchange the Israeli hostages be released. There will be no exchange without the Israelis," Olmert told Reuters.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official refused to comment on an offer by Shiite radicals to free Cicippio in exchange for Obeid plus 150 Lebanese and 300 Palestinian prisoners.

But, Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel urged the Hezbollah organisation to negotiate with Israel to swap all foreign and Israeli prisoners in exchange for Obeid and Shiite prisoners held in Israel and South Lebanon.

Liel and a Defence Ministry official declined to comment on a threat by a Hezbollah leader to execute an Israeli soldier it holds if Israel refuses to free Obeid.

Prior to the offer to swap Cicippio and the threat to kill an Israeli soldier, officials urged all countries with captives in Lebanon to co-ordinate strategy in any negotiations with pro-Iranian groups for the release of hostages.

Officials also warned that Obeid would be freed only as part of a deal that includes freedom for captive Israeli soldiers.

"The Foreign Ministry... decided it is useless to publicly respond to every statement," Liel said.

"The Israeli offer (to swap prisoner) still stands and if Hezbollah has serious intentions it can approach us through different channels such as the Red Cross."

Earlier, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel would only consider swapping all foreign and Israeli prisoners in Lebanon for Obeid and Shiite detainees in Israel.

"I am not going to deal with anything at the present... but an overall and comprehensive swap," Rabin told the CBS network.

The statement came amid concern that momentum was building toward separate deals that could provide for the release of 17 Western hostages but exclude three Israeli servicemen held captive.

"We have the feeling co-ordination at this stage might help, and countries with hostages should speak together," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said in response to a question.

"We feel chances for a deal are better if those countries co-ordinate activities and not work separately."

In an interview with the CBS Sunday News programme, "Face the Nation," that Israel Radio broadcast, Rabin said Israel's first priority was securing the release of three Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon since 1986. But he added, "we will not separate anything" concerning Israel's offer for a trade.

"I think that the most difficult part of any exchange to Hezbollah would be to give us the Israelis," Rabin said. "It will be easier for them to do it vis-à-vis the Americans (held hostage). We will not separate (the Western hostages). But the Israelis will be the first."

In response to questions concerning hostage negotiations, Arens told Army radio he believed such talks concerning the hostages could only take place through channels considered by Israel to be "100 per cent trustworthy, such as the Red Cross."

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Gouding added there is a "kind of subdued optimism" about the prospects for arranging a hostage swap.

Saadawi: Egypt's champion of women's struggle

Threat from militants prompted posting of armed guards

CAIRO, Aug 6, (Reuters): Nawal El Saadawi has spent time in prison, had armed guards posted outside her front door for her own protection and had some of her work banned because of her campaign for an Arab women's revolt in a male world.

"The authorities threatened me in 1987 and said they were putting guards outside my house because I was in danger," said the chameleon, white-haired Egyptian novelist.

The 24-hour guard remained there 18 months — apparently because of threats from Muslim militants who regarded one of her books in particular, "The Fall of the Imam," as heresy.

The Imam or Islamic leader in question is a sinister symbol of pharaonic power — a man or combination of men claiming divine authority.

The book is heavily satirical, and involves the Imam going to heaven and asking God for a reprieve from death. But he has difficulty in getting

past reception.

For Saadawi, the Imam represents "dictatorship" in the form of late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, former Sudanese leader Jaafar Nimeiri, now exiled in Cairo, and late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

"It's all of them," she said. "To me God is justice and freedom. God is an idea inside each of us. In that sense, I'm very religious."

She was dismissed from a senior government position in 1972 because of her political views and the way she expressed them.

In 1984, her novel "God Dies by the Nile" was banned in Egypt but Saadawi found a publisher in Beirut prepared to print it.

She has been writing since 1955 and a constant theme has been women's struggle against subjugation by the religious and political authority of men.

"I cannot distinguish between class and gender struggle," she told Reuters. "I am against authority

embodied in certain men in both public and private life."

Speaking up for womanhood has a long history in Egypt, which hosted the first Arab Women's Feminist Conference in the 1930s and has long led the Arab world in moving towards equality of the sexes.

In 1834 a religious mentor of students, Sheikh Rifa'a Rafi At-Tahawi, wrote the first book calling for the education of women and an improvement in their social status.

Qassem Amin, a judge, became known as the liberator of women after his books, "Liberation of Women" and "The New Woman," were published at the turn of the century.

Saadawi was packed off to jail by Sadat with thousands of others in 1981, but her imprisonment ended with his assassination by Muslim zealots on Oct 6 of the same year.

In jail she met a woman named Firdaus, on whom she based her novel "Woman at Point Zero."

It tells of a village girl raped at an early age and forced into prostitution who finds that money and well-publicised acts of charity can provide respectability in a society devoted to material gain and status.

A brief flirtation with revolutionary ideas develops into murderous rebellion against sexual enslavement and the threat of execution. It is a grim tale written with the melodrama and simplicity of a thriller.

Saadawi wrote of prison in "The Arrest" and in the preface she paints an austere portrait of herself as an outsider.

"I don't say yes and I don't take part in elections. I have no cliques. I don't go to parties. I don't put on makeup like other women, and don't wash my hair with American shampoo. I don't drink Israeli beer and I feel sick when I read the papers," she said.

Saadawi's feminist campaign does not end with novels.



Saadawi (centre) addresses an Arab international conference on challenges faced by Arab women, organised by the Arab Women's Solidarity Society.

As a qualified psychiatrist she helps young women suffering from emotional or mental turmoil, and in 1982 she founded the Arab Women's Solidarity Association. "It is a Pan-Arab organisation devoted to promoting women economically, culturally and politically," she said.

Muslim religious scholar on trial

CAIRO, Aug 6, (AP): A trial of 54 Muslim fundamentalists, including a blind preacher who was twice acquitted of charges connected to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat, opened here today amid tight security.

The case, before a State Security Court, stems from an anti-government demonstration allegedly led by the blind preacher, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman on April 7 in the southern town of Fayoum. He and 48 others are charged with illegal possession of weapons, attempting to kill a police officer, and assault on individuals and public property.

In an ensuing nation-wide crackdown, police rounded up about 1,500 fundamentalists, and charges were pressed against three men allegedly found preparing and throwing explosives at a theatre house in Fayoum. Two more were later charged with distributing leaflets inciting strife and demanding the release of Abdel-Rahman.

"There is no god but Allah," chanted the defendants as they were transported to the court grounds in three prison vans followed by two armoured personnel carriers and a fire engine. Rows of security police lined the huge courtroom, a transformed hangar-like trade fair hall.

Abdel-Rahman was tried and acquitted in a case connected to Sadat's assassination Oct 6, 1981 by Muslim extremists and in the trial of 300 involved in a subsequent coup attempt in the southern city of Assiut.

At the time, the government charged but could not prove that he instigated the president's murder by telling his followers Sadat had abandoned Islam.

"The government has made up these charges because we exposed its civil and corruption," Abdel-Rahman said today of his new charges.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Key to relations

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Aug 6, (AP): The key to any improvement in relations between the United States and Ethiopia lies in ending Ethiopia's civil war, a US official said today.

"We feel that a solution to all our problems can come only after peace is achieved," said Herman J. Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

Cohen, whose two-day visit marked the first to Ethiopia by a senior Washington official since the country's revolution in 1974, spoke at a news conference before leaving Addis Ababa.

Intifada support

CAIRO, Aug 6, (KUNA): President Ali Abdullah Saleh of the Yemen Arab Republic said the Arab world should step up financial and political support to the Palestinian intifada.

Arab governments, said President Saleh, should also employ their international relations with all influential parties particularly the UN five permanent Security Council members, to gather support for the intifada and national Palestinian rights.

Soldiers discharged

ANKARA, Turkey, Aug 6, (AP): An Istanbul newspaper reported today that 30 non-commissioned Air Force officers have been discharged for engaging in Muslim fundamentalist activities.

The daily Milliyet did not say when they were discharged. It reported that the issue was discussed at a four-day annual meeting of the supreme military council held in Ankara Friday. Turkey's 400,000-strong armed forces is one of the main defenders of secularism, which is considered the linchpin of the modern Turkish republic founded by Kemal Ataturk in the 1920s.

Call to resolve

RIVADH, Aug 6, (KUNA): Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa has called for resolving the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and establishing permanent peace in the Gulf region.

Sheikh Mohammed, speaking to Saudi daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published yesterday, said that he found full readiness by the United States, where he ended a visit Friday, to help execute the UN Security Council's resolution 598 concerning the Gulf conflict.

Meetings concluded

AMMAN, Aug 6, (KUNA): Board of the Higher International Islamic Council (for Daawa) has adopted a number of resolutions including protection of Al-Aqsa mosque and Islamic sanctuaries in occupied Jerusalem.

The board, which concluded meetings here last night, issued a statement, indicating that the board will resort to the International Court of Justice for protection of Al-Aqsa mosque and related to extend financial and material support to Muslims in the Israeli-occupied holy city.

Tributes paid

ABU DHABI, Aug 6, (KUNA): United Arab Emirates newspapers today paid tribute to President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan on the occasion of his accession as ruler of Abu Dhabi emirate.

Al Itihad described Sheikh Zayed, who came to power on Aug 6, 1966, as the "knight of all days in the UAE."

"Those days have changed the face of the desert into a green world and took the country into a prominent status among other states," it said.

Fatah to elect young leaders

Uprising to be used as lever for state

TUNIS, Aug 6, (Reuters): Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement was set today to endorse the strategy of using the Palestinian uprising as a lever for an independent state alongside Israel.

The Fatah general congress in Tunis, its first meeting at this level since the one in Damascus nine years ago, will also elect new, younger leaders to dilute the influence of the core that founded the movement 30 years ago.

Organisers have kept the congress out of the public eye and little information has filtered out of the tightly-guarded conference hall where more than 1,100 delegates have been meeting since Thursday.

One adviser to Arafat, Fatah leader and chairman of the PLO, said armed struggle was a constant theme in speeches, especially by those vying for five vacant seats in the central committee.

Armed struggle remains an emotive issue in the Palestinian movement, despite evidence that the uprising or intifada in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has done more for the Palestinian cause in 20 months than 20 years of commando raids.

In a headline commentary on the congress, the PLO news agency Wafa said delegates believed unanimously that "armed struggle is still, in the face of intransigence and the continuing (Israeli) occupation, the only way to victory."

In his keynote opening speech on Thursday, Arafat defended the armed struggle of the past and, without renouncing it for the future, said there was no going back on the intifada and diplomatic initiative which it made possible.

The PLO, strengthened by the intifada, last year endorsed the idea of a Palestinian state co-existing with Israel. Arafat also renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist, clearing the way for direct talks with Washington.

Political resolutions, expected later today, would show how far Arafat has succeeded in bringing Fatah grassroots, fully behind this strategy.

Arafat is often criticised for taking personal initiatives and many militants have been asking what he has achieved by recognising Israel and calling off military operations.

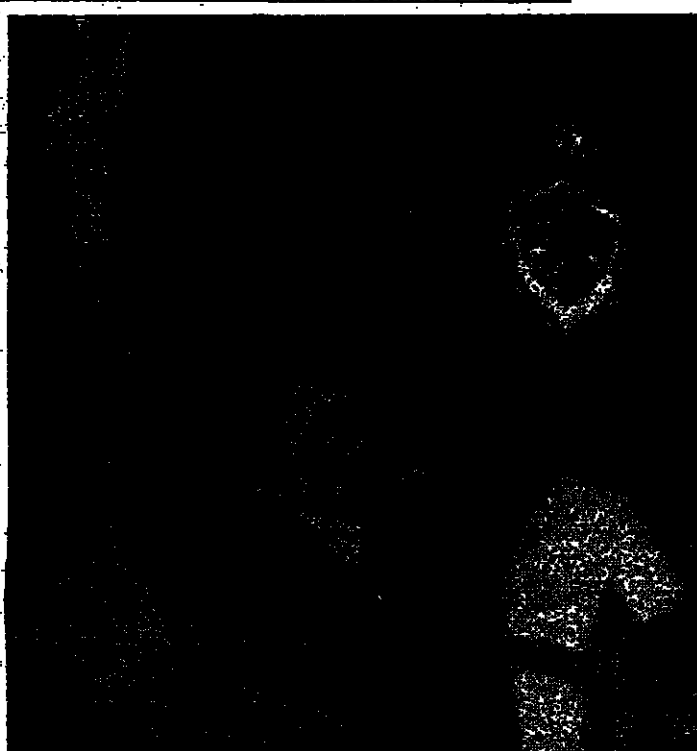
Pressure for resumed attacks is minimal, however, and Arafat need not oppose a resolution saying armed struggle was legitimate, as this remains the theoretical position of all PLO factions, delegates said.

Fatah officials said none of the 10 members of the current central committee was likely to lose a seat in elections today afternoon, especially those who helped Arafat create Fatah in Kuwait in the late 1950s.

The vacancies arose through three assassinations, and to expulsions among 15 leaders elected in 1980.

The officials said three other members would later be co-opted into the central committee, bringing the membership up to 18, the statutory maximum.

The most prominent candidates for the seats are Intissar Al Wazir, the widow of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) who was assassinated in Tunis last year, and Hakim-Balawi, the PLO representative in Tunis who has risen to prominence as the PLO's main contact with US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau.



Arafat holds up the insignia of Al Asifa, the military wing of the Fatah movement during a debate at Fatah's general congress in Tunis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soldier hurt by firebomb

Jewish house burned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 6, (AP): An Israeli soldier was injured today in a firebomb attack on an Army patrol in the open-air market in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, the Army said.

The military command said the soldier, a patrol commander, suffered moderate injuries.

Troops launched a search for the attacker and clamped a curfew on the city's open-air market, where the assault took place, and on a nearby neighbourhood, it said. The curfew forced some 40,000 residents to stay indoors, Arab reporters said.

Israel radio identified the injured trooper as a 26-year-old reserve soldier from Bat Yam, a suburb of Tel Aviv. His name was not released.

The radio and Arab reporters in Nablus said the Army patrol responded to the attack with gunfire, and the military later put up roadblocks, throughout the city and were searching Arab cars. No further injuries were reported.

The attack followed a night march by some 60 khaki-uniformed and masked supporters of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who raised an outlawed Palestinian flag and called through loud-speakers for uniting PLO factions under Arafat's Fatah wing, Arab journalists said.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah and nearby El Bireh, a commercial strike was reported. Palestinian journalists said the strike came after an underground "Unified Merchants' Committee" distributed a leaflet urging a protest against Israeli tax-raids.

Non-payment of taxes is one of the major tactics in the Arab rebellion against Israeli rule.

"The enemy has launched a cowardly economic war against the merchants and we have to resist it by collectively refusing to pay taxes," the leaflet said.

In another development, a police spokesman in occupied Jerusalem said the arson attack on a Jewish-owned house in the old city's Muslim quarter last night was a nationalist assault.

Spokesman Avi Zelba said the house was heavily damaged when the assailants broke in, poured flammable material and lit it. No injuries were reported.

Zelba said police detained seven Palestinians as suspects in the arson but released them today.

Several hundred Jews, including religious seminary students, live in the Muslim quarter, home to 23,000 Arabs.

Four Jewish families have moved into the Muslim quarter last month, and Israeli media said the arson attack seemed to be a warning to them.

Also today, Army radio and the Hadashot daily quoted Mahmoud Ali Shaaban, 22, of the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp, as confessing to the stabbing murder of two inmates at the southern desert Ketzioh prison camp for Palestinians yesterday.

Hadashot quoted Shaaban as saying he killed one detainee for homosexual reasons and the second because he suspected the victim of collaborating with Israel.

At least 89 Palestinians have been murdered by their brethren as suspected collaborators, and some 527 have died in clashes with the Army and other Israelis. Thirty-eight Israelis have also been killed.

Rockets greet Soviet minister

KABUL, Aug 6, (Reuters): Rebel rockets rained down on the Afghan capital Kabul today as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze flew in for talks with the Moscow-backed government.

The rockets fell in the morning on the Darulaman district where the Soviet embassy and Afghan Ministry of Defence are located. In the afternoon 16 missiles landed within a kilometre (half-a-mile) of the Continental Hotel, where many foreign journalists are based.

Shevardnadze will probably stay until tomorrow, Soviet sources said. He is expected to talk about last week's meeting in Stockholm between US and Soviet officials at which Afghanistan was the major topic.

Diplomats said they also expected Shevardnadze to brief Afghan President Najibullah on the improving ties between the Soviet Union and Iran, where he had brief talks last week.

In other developments Jangir Singh angrily brandished a piece of shrapnel from a rocket that tore through his aunt's house yesterday and wondered aloud when the killing would end.

In the room where Singh's 16-year-old cousin had been ironing, a pile of newly pressed sheets, stained with blood, lay in the rubble amid twisted fragments of shrapnel and the dusty iron.

The girl's two sisters, aged 13 and 8, were also hurt. They, along with two children of a neighbour playing in the front yard, were among the latest victims of the rocketing of Kabul, an almost daily event since late June.

A Foreign Minister spokesman, Mohammad Nabi Amani, said 13 rockets pounded the capital yesterday, wounding eight people. But during and after his briefing at least four more rockets fell, their distinctive boom heard across the city.

Amani said the rockets were concentrated around Kabul's main grain silo, missing the silo itself and striking nearby.

The attack, he said, was part of a drive by US-backed rebels fighting to oust the Soviet-backed government of President Najib to starve this city of 2.25 million.

The house of Singh's aunt was about 1-1/2 miles (2.5 kilometres) from the silo. The metal roof was torn off, and the rocket's path could be traced through holes in the ceilings down to the ground floor.

The windows in a primary school next door to the two-storey house were shattered.

"The school has been open. God knows how many students would have been killed," said Singh. The government has extended the summer holiday because of rocket attacks.

"We think this is a policy of the United States and the Soviet Union. They are dividing the world — and they are dividing Afghan brothers, the Afghan country," said Singh, an Afghan of Indian descent who works in the money bazaar.

Soviet troops, under a United Nations-brokered accord, withdrew from Afghanistan in February.

Exemplar of peace: Khalil Gibran

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): In a city filled with monuments to war, admirers of Khalil Gibran want to build a garden memorialising the Lebanese-American exemplar of peace.

The garden will celebrate peace and understanding, and a writer whose words helped four decades of American young people out of the maze of adolescence into the unsure world of adulthood.

Gibran's garden that almost was, in the past few months to raise most of the \$1 million or so needed to beat a national park service deadline and break ground for the wooded two-acre plot dedicated to their countryman, Khalil Gibran, author of "The Prophet."

Gibran's romantic dialectic was severely criticised by academics, but nevertheless captured the interest of generations of young people, notably in the 1960s, with passages like this:

"Then a woman said, speak to us of joy and sorrow."

"And he answered:

"Your joy is your sorrow unmasked."

"And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises is oftentimes filled with your tears."

"The Prophet," Gibran's most popular book, is the best-selling hardcover book on the Alfred A. Knopf Publishing House list. It has racked up 6 million sales since it was first printed in 1923, and still sells 100,000 a year. The deluxe edition has sold another 363,000 copies at a steady rate of 11,500 a year, and the paperback has sold 1,886,000 at the rate of 40,000 a year. An audio version brought out in 1986 sells about 10,000 a year.

But the plans for a memorial for Gibran were not nearly as successful, and it looked for a while as if the modest project might founder.

It was the idea of Washington housewife Sheryl Ameen, emanating from her despair over the plight of Lebanon, wracked by civil wars and invasion. She said she couldn't stand "the vision of all this bloodshed...and I felt it was not the true image of the Lebanese," who for 4,000 years had been merchants and travellers, descendants of the ancient Phoenicians.

In 1983, the 100th anniversary of Gibran's birth, she determined to soften the image by building a

memorial of some sort to the gentle writer whose words helped sustain the Rev. Lawrence Jones when he was held hostage in Lebanon. Jones still quotes him: "Not everyone in chains is subdued," and "hell is not torture. Hell is an empty heart."

Ameen, who is president of the Khalil Gibran centennial foundation, had heard that the comedian Flip Wilson also quoted Gibran at his performance, and he appeared before Congress in behalf of the memorial. A resolution providing park service land for the Gibran garden was written by Maine Sen. George Mitchell and the late Rep. Abraham Kazan Jr., both of Lebanese parentage.

But the planning was easier than getting the funds. Finally, another Lebanese, Bill Baroody, former head of the office of communications in the Gerald Ford White and director of the American Enterprise Institute, came to the rescue. He mobilised other prominent Arab-Americans and the money began trickling in.

Through the summer a series of seven dinners from Boston to Los Angeles are to raise almost half of the needed \$1 million with the rest coming from organisations, wealthy individuals and the general public. The deadline for breaking ground is October 19.

"It's off the ground and it's going to successfully conclude on target on time," Baroody says. "It's been a struggle."

One of the reasons, he says, is that most Lebanese in America tended to assimilate totally, to become part of the mainstream. But in the past 15 to 20 years they began to reconnect with their ethnic pride, partly in response to what was happening in their tiny native land.

Ameen and Baroody want the garden and the foundation to echo what they believe Gibran stood for: Peace and understanding, meditation and consensus, rational debate and discussion. Gibran has plenty of critics in academic circles. They say his writing is not poetry, more like romantic drivel, an exercise in dialectics. What does Baroody think?

"Basically, I feel sorry for them."

The garden in a lush woods near the vice president's residence and the Naval Observatory will feature a pool and walkways where visitors can come to meditate. Among the new plantings will be three 25-foot (8-metre) Lebanese cedar trees.

Abdul Meguid urges Kelly in Cairo talks

'Make Israel accept peace'

CAIRO, Aug 6, (Agencies): Egypt today urged the United States to make Israel accept the land-for-peace formula, end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters that while it was important to secure the safety of Israel, it was also necessary to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and exchange land for peace.

He spoke following a 90-minute meeting with John Kelly, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, who is on his first regional tour to explore Arab-Israeli peace prospects. Kelly has already been to Israel, and is scheduled to fly to Jordan later.

Abdel Meguid said Kelly briefed him on his talks with Palestinians and Israeli officials in the Jewish state. He said Egypt stressed the importance of bases laid out in statements made by US President George Bush in April, in which he said land should be exchanged for peace. Israel should end its presence in the occupied territories and Palestinians' legitimate rights should be granted.

Saying that the United States was a partner in the peace process, Abdel Meguid stressed that "the role of the United States is primary. We have to work on carrying out these bases."

"We want the security of Israel, and we want it to end its occupation and to return land for peace. These are the bases of the situation that we are talking about," he said.

Egypt supports the PLO's demand for an independent state for the Palestinians, but the United States and Israel reject this.

Abdel Meguid also said he had told Kelly how important it was to stop the oppressive Israeli actions in the occupied territories.



Lebanon evacuation

More than 200 Filipinos, many of them female entertainers, were evacuated from war-torn Lebanon on Sunday after complaining they were stranded, police said.

A spokesman at the Philippines Embassy said the evacuees were due to fly later to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to catch a Filipino jetliner to Manila.

Some of the group, mostly women but including children and men, had come to Lebanon seeking work opportunities. Others, who had gone to Nicosia, Cyprus on tourist visas and worked there as entertainers had travelled to Beirut to be able to renew their Cypriot visas. Picture shows Lebanese policeman stands guard as the workers are evacuated. (Reuters wirephoto)

Medical care for prisoners

ANKARA, Aug 6, (Reuters): Turkey's Justice Ministry, stung by the deaths of two hunger strikers, has ordered immediate medical care for prison inmates in critical health, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said today.

The ministry plans to relax a harsh decree on jail conditions to help break hunger strikes by nearly 1,200 inmates which have hurt Turkey's already blemished human rights image.

Two convicted Kurdish rebels died last Wednesday at Aydin civilian jail in western Turkey where officials said eight other inmates were in critical condition after 38-day hunger strikes.

A ministry statement, quoted by the agency, said inmates who continued to refuse food would be taken to hospital immediately if their conditions were critical, reversing a former order.

Queen's gold-stuffed coffin found in Nimrud

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Aug 6, (AP): A stone coffin filled with gold jewellery was unearthed by archaeologists in the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud, the official Iraqi News Agency reported yesterday.

It was the second discovery of a gold-laden burial in Nimrud this year.

The agency quoted Muhsen Saeed, Iraq's director of antiquities, as saying the find included "hundreds of gold ornaments and pieces of jewellery."

Queen Ninli Shomi Marmani, the wife of King Assurnasrpal II, who ruled from 884-858 BC.

The coffin, or sarcophagus, was found at a depth of four metres (13 feet) and tablets in wedge-shaped cuneiform writing also were associated with the royal burial, Saeed said.

Nimrud, the military capital of the ancient Assyrian Empire that stretched from the Gulf to the Mediterranean, is located about 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of the northern Iraqi City of Mosul.

In April, Iraqi archaeologists unearthed a stone chamber at Nimrud that contained the burials of two women accompanied by more than 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of gold jewellery, the richest such find ever made.

A stone inscription in the tomb in wedge-shaped cuneiform writing identified the women as Yabaya and Taliya, possibly the daughter and grand-daughter of King Sargon, who ruled Assyria in the 8th century BC.

The inscription also laid a curse on anyone who opened the burial chamber.

Call to upgrade police performance

Traffic awareness main aim

GENERAL Secretary of the Safety and Protection from Road Accidents Society, Dr Nabeel Abdul Raheem has called for upgrading the performance level of local policemen and has stressed upon the importance of implementing traffic laws to prevent traffic accidents. During a special interview conducted by the cultural activity group of Keifan Summer Club for girls, Nabeel said that the society will prepare special English language traffic awareness programmes

on television. The Safety and Protection from Road Accidents Society was established in 1982 by a number of educated youth who felt responsibility for the dramatic increase of traffic accidents in Kuwait. Kuwait witnessed 519 traffic deaths during 1981-82. The society was established mainly to upgrade residents traffic awareness.

Co-operation
The society fully co-operates with the Ministry of Interior in

addition to other authorities related with traffic, safety and security matters such as the municipality, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health. Nabeel pointed out that participating in the Traffic Week is one of the society's main activities in which they honour ideal policemen and print and distribute posters on the occasion.

Praising the Ministry of Information, he pointed out that co-

ordination between the society and the ministry has been fruitful in putting the society's capabilities under the provision of the ministry. The ministry represented by Kuwait Television has fully covered the activities of the society. A number of cultural lectures on traffic delivered during the cultural assembly held last March were recorded by the Ministry of Information in order to broadcast them during the summer season, the official said.



Diving revival opens today

THE 4th Diving Revival Festival organised by the Kuwait Sea Sports Club will begin today at 8.00 am. Sultan Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the club said that a number of Kuwaiti youths will take part in the diving trip which will continue for several days. The main aim of the festival is to revive Kuwait's heritage in diving for pearls. Head of the information committee of the festival, Asad Abdulla said that a trip will be organised for journalists Thursday to see Kuwaiti young men in action.

The trip will take place on Thursday at 4.00 p.m. and will end the next day at the same time. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad has donated a car which is the first prize for the winner of a cultural competition attached to the festival.

Communications Ministry appointing national cadres

Phone eavesdropping illegal

MINISTER of Communications, Abdullah Abdul Mehsin Al Sharhan stated that the ministry is still appointing national staff at different sections due to the pressing need of the ministry to appoint national manpower in the field of communications.

In a special interview conducted by the Communications Magazine, Sharhan pointed out that the ministry follows several methods to enable it to collect unpaid debts from a number of telephone subscribers. The minister stressed that eavesdropping on telephone conversations is prohibited by

the ministry laws and that such incidents are liable to judicial actions.

He revealed that the ministry has conducted several campaigns to correct the addresses of subscribers who do not receive their telephone bills through the mail.

Campaigns

He stressed that due to the pressing need of appointing national technicians at the communications field, the ministry is currently following up a policy of sending national trainees to training courses held abroad and in the country. Newly employed

workers will be required to take part in training courses before starting their duties at the ministry, the official said.

He pointed out that the ministry is faced with the dilemma of unpaid telephone bills. Those who did not pay their debts will be contacted by the ministry and informed that they should pay their bills within a specific period of time, after that the ministry will issue a warning stating that the telephone line will be disconnected if bills were not paid within a sixty days period. The matter then is referred to the court in case of non-payment, the minister said.

Union asks for tax imposition

THE Kuwait Workers Trade Union has issued a statement emphasising its stand on the national rationalisation of public spending and denouncing the negative effects of this policy on the financial sources of the limited income group.

The statement denounced the levying of charges on public services, starting with passports, through driving licences and medical services. The statement stressed that these charges constituted a heavy burden on people with limited-income, in contrast to the high-income group.

The statement pointed out that the trade union supported the policy of rationalised spending but requested higher percentage of charges levied on people with higher-income and less charges on those with limited income.

Residents don't support health charges issue

MEMBERS of the cultural activity group at Sulaibiya Summer Club for Girls conducted several interviews with residents to highlight their opinions towards the Ministry of Health's intention to levy fees on some health services.

Amna Attak Akbar said that she is unsupportive to the idea of fees on some important services such as education and health services. She pointed out that many poor families living in Kuwait will be adversely affected by paying the value of these fees.

She added that unlike essential services, fees should instead be imposed on unessential or what she called side services like travelling fees and others. She said that educational and health services are considered essential to every resident.

Zainab Ali expressed a negative reaction towards residents not respecting some free of charge services such as wastage and unessential use of medicines prescribed by clinics and hospitals at the Ministry of Public Health. Other examples include vandalism witnessed at different public utilities like the Sea Front Project and others. She added that imposing fees on some services is essential to encourage residents to appreciate the value of these services and is directed towards a policy of rationalisation in services.

Value

Iqbal Mohammed who works as a driver said that since he first came to Kuwait he has been highly impressed with the great care the government bestows in presenting services to residents. He added that Kuwait is a generous country, therefore, he suggested that fees should be imposed on some of these services in order to make residents reconsider their value.

Abdul Razzaq Mansoor said that he supports imposing fees on some of the services but, pointed out that such fees should be re-evaluated in order to avoid a burden on poor people. He added that imposing fees on health services may assist the Ministry of Public Health towards developing its utilities and will resolve wasting public money. Regarding imposing fees on educational services, Mansoor suggested that only failing students should pay such fees in order to make them feel more responsible.

Abdullah Yousif supported imposing fees on some services pointing out that this may give residents a chance to participate in resolving the country's deficit budget.

Nadiya Al Demerdash has called upon government officials to reconsider the matter on imposing departure fees pointing out that such fees may harm the interests of many poor residents and citizens. She added that health and educational services are considered essential to every resident.

United efforts vital for security

UNOFFICIAL security officers are guarding some of the country's vital utilities and private establishments. They are well qualified for their job and this is reflected in the proficiency in their duties as they regularly receive re-orientation courses in the field of security. They have also been successfully instrumental in closing a gap attributed to under-qualified security guards who were appointed for the protection of public and private utilities.

A local daily interviewed a number of security officers at Kuwait University who said that team effort is a vital element towards providing optimum security and added that the co-operation of the general public does contribute in no small measure towards the high standards of the security apparatus.

Irritants

On obstacles they face in the execution of their duties, they said that youths are the main source of minor irritants at the university. Several youths try to enter the university campus even though they are not registered at the university. These youths often harass girl students and indulge in acts of vandalism.

Another area that causes misunderstandings is taking away any item from the university. Items can only be taken from the university which have been granted official passes. However, on many occasions people insist on taking away items without producing an exit pass.

Security personnel have called on university officials to build cabins to protect them from the harsh climatic conditions prevailing in Kuwait and also that security personnel be permitted to use the university cafeteria.

Maher Waheed currently attending the post graduate school at the Psychology Department said that some university students view security personnel as servants and treat them without any respect. He called upon students to co-operate with security personnel as they in fact represented the law and were committed to providing security for the students and the protection of their facilities.

Mohammed Abu Al Olla said that some university visitors refuse to hand in their identification cards when they desire to enter the campus and consider such a request to be an affront to them.

Fahmi Mohammed Lutfi said that some students gather at prohibited areas in front of the university building. He said that all students have been urged to lock their cars while attending lectures and are further warned not to keep valuables in their cars to avoid thefts.

12,971 apply for teaching positions here

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs at the Ministry of Education Suad Al Rifai has said that a total of 12,971 applications have so far been submitted for the position of teacher both from Kuwait and abroad.

She said that 10,000 of the overseas applications were received from Cairo, Amman, and Tunis, and 2,971 were submitted in Kuwait by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti teachers.

She told a local daily that priority would be accorded to applicants with experience in the field who currently do not occupy any teaching positions.

She said that the ministry's external contracting committee left for Cairo yesterday to sign contracts with 158 teachers covering the fields of household economy, music, mechanics, welding, electricity, electronics and other professional specialisations.

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I HOLD a high-risk job; mainly doing installation work at considerable heights, sometimes at the edge of towers. This is risky work. To my knowledge, some of my colleagues are insured, including myself. In case of an accident, our company does not keep any medical records. Is an employer obliged to insure workers who do high-risk jobs?

My salary has not been raised since 1986. I have also not been paid my annual leave dues. I've gone on vacation twice, the first time on a month's leave after completing 15 months service and the second time, I went for 30 days 10 months later. Can I claim my leave pay? My salary has not been raised.

D.B.D'Souza
THERE is no law that obligates an employer to insure workers. Article 40 and Art. 41, however, state that an "employer shall provide suitable means of protection of workers during work, adequate means of prevention of accident resulting from the use of mechanical equipment, etc." However, it is up to the employer to take necessary precautions.

A person who has worked for one year is entitled to 14 days paid leave; after completing five years, an employee is entitled to 21 days paid leave.

The question of giving a raise is a matter that must be looked into by the management.

WHAT is the percentage of interest charged for buying electrical appliances on instalment basis?

E.B. Villaseñot
ACCORDING to the law, it is seven and a half percent per year; but some dealers in the market charge between three and 10 percent. If a person does not pay the instalments on time, a shopkeeper can take the matter to court, which fixes the damages.

Any interest charged by a vendor must be with the agreement of the buyer. Both parties must agree to the amount that is being charged and make an agreement to pay instalments.

In case a customer does not pay the instalments on time, a shopkeeper must file a case to claim the damages, which are calculated from the date the case was filed and not from the date the buyer delayed payment.

I HAVE been working in a shop for the last six months on a two year contract. My employer terminated my services verbally. Now, he doesn't allow me to enter the shop. I fear that he wants to use the "seven days absence" from service clause to terminate my services and deprive me of my benefits. Is there anything I can do?

V.R
YOU are right; he is playing the trick to find a reason to terminate your services. You must go at once to the Social Affairs Ministry to file a case against him. You must file a case to claim all your benefits. You can also ask for compensation for termination without any reason. You can also claim compensation for the rest of the period of the contract.

Article 53 of the Labour Law says: "If the contract is made for a fixed period, and

either of the two parties terminates it, the party terminating the contract shall compensate the other for any loss incurred by him. If such termination is made by the employer, for reasons other than those stipulated, he shall compensate the other for any loss incurred by him; with observation of the commercial custom, nature of work, term of the contract and in general all circumstances under which the said loss is realised, provided that the amount of compensation shall not exceed a wage balance, equivalent to the unexpired period of the contract under any case whatsoever."

I HAVE been working with a company for the last five years. Now I want to join another company for better prospects but my employer is refusing to give a release. I have completed three years service with him. Do I have the right to take up the matter in a court?

D'Souza
THE law does not restrict the issue of a release letter by an employer; there's nothing in the law that says an employer can't give a release. You can file a case in the Social Affairs Ministry and the court will handle the case to get the release from the employer.

I'VE changed jobs. But my new employer says that I must cancel my present visa to obtain a new one. I don't want to cancel my visa. Can I get a new visa without cancellation?

S.T.
A PERSON cannot hold two valid residence permits. You must cancel the present visa to re-apply for a new visa. A visa is a passport to re-enter a country and a person cannot have two visas at the same time.

WE are a group of workers who in the past five years enjoyed double-pay on holidays. Suddenly, our company has reverted to single-pay on official holidays. Are they right?

Private sector employees
YOU can claim overtime if you work on official holidays. Article 36 of the law defines overtime and says any employee who works on a holiday must be paid double wages; that is two days wages, normal wage plus one extra day.

Article 37 mentions eight official holidays; article 38 entitles workers to take 14 days paid leave (it must be 14 working days, excluding Fridays and holidays which are not counted) after completing one year service; an employee is entitled to get 21 days after five years service.

I HAVE been told that if I terminate my employment contract, I have to pay the amount equivalent to my two month's salary. Also, even if I do so, I will be repatriated back home. Furthermore, my employer takes at least two or more weeks to process necessary papers to make the final settlement in spite of the fact that an employee gives him 30 days notice.

In view of the above, please tell me how I can transfer my employment in Kuwait or any other country without breaking any immigration and labour rules.

What legal rights does an employee have against his employer if he decides not to extend the contract or delays his departure? Can an employee claim any damage against an employer for any delay?

ATE Nandazena
IF a fixed period contract is terminated by either party, the party terminating the contract must pay damages. In case you end the contract before it expires, then you have to compensate the employer. This is the law.

If you have a valid visa for any other country, there is no need to go back to your country of origin. You can go to the country for which you have a valid work permit. There is no law which defines the time limit in which an employer must process the papers. If you want to, you file a court case to get your documents. However, this procedure will also take time but there is no other way.

Another alternative would be to seek the assistance of the Social Affairs Ministry and if they understand the situation, they can force the employer to rush the procedure.

WHAT is the overtime payment for employees in the private sector?

Name withheld
ARTICLE 34 of the Labour Law defines overtime payment, but it must be on a written order from the employer. An employee gets normal wages plus at least 25 percent extra.

I HAVE completed one year and four months service with my present employer. I am now fed up and want to leave the job because I have not been paid for five months despite pleading with my general manager. I have to pay my rent, buy food and send expenses to my family back home. All this has upset me greatly. If I lodge a complaint with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, I fear my company will deport me. Can you advise me?

Charlie
YOU can file case against the employer with the assistance of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to claim your wages. Your employer can't deport you until the case has been heard and the matter has been resolved. You can ask for all the benefits, because you were not paid. However, you can't seek a transfer of residence because you did not complete three years with the company and 10 years in Kuwait.

A DECREE has been passed by HH the Amir of Kuwait saying foreigners can start small business units in Kuwait without a Kuwaiti partner. If so, who will be the sponsor of a foreigner who intends to start a small business. Can a foreigner avail loan facility from the bank without providing any guarantee or security? What is meant by a small business. We need a clear explanation.

Aleyamma Mathew Modiyil
IT IS too early to say anything now. If what you say is right, it means, a law must be issued after that, which will organise the matter and explain the facility. We can only comment after a law has been issued.

NHA to continue vertical expansion

THE assistant director-general for distribution, documentation and follow-up at the National Housing Authority (NHA) Farid Mishari Al Ojail has said that under the new housing care system the NHA will pay the cost of upkeep throughout the first year after delivering the house to an applicant.

The Quairin Housing Project will provide a maximum 84 applicants with houses. The official strongly denied any form of personal favouritism in the distribution of houses. He said that the total indoor area of houses is 200 metres while the outdoor area is 400 metres.

The NHA is considering delegating responsibility for construction of some of its new projects to private companies. The housing projects for the next stage will be executed in Sulaibikhat, Fintas, Um Al Haiman, Naim, South Hadiya, Wafra, Khiran and Falaika.

Ojail said that NHA projects would in ten years' time be confined to flat-type housing system, while continuing to apply the vertical expansion principle.

He added that the NHA has no intention to disperse, with the existing popular houses, but the idea was possible for consideration in the future.

He stressed the NHA's effort to ensure that government houses are not sublet to tenants by their owners but will be undertaken during daily routine inspection visits. Such houses will be withdrawn from their owners to ensure that no such practices are followed by others.

The NHA plays a supervisory role in the execution of its projects by contractors, and any delay in construction is the responsibility of contractors, Ojail said.



Bangladesh Association

Bangladesh Association held a meeting with the founder/lifelong members of the library on August 4th '89 at the embassy premises. The meeting formed a seven member committee headed by the Counsellor Mohsin Ali Khan as the chairman. The other members are A.S. Tajul Hassan, Moaz Uddin Ahmed and Yakub Malik as ex-officio; Dr Shahjahan, Mohammed Mominul Haque and Khondakar Abdul Hannan as founder/lifelong members' representative.

Advances against pensions criticised

Change requested

A NUMBER of retired employees have criticised the present system of social security especially the law that allows retired employees to obtain advances against a part of their payments. Some of them claimed that they availed a large part of their pensions for advance payments and became prisoners of this system because they are not able to repay their debts.

One of them Abdul Rahman Hassan (60-year-old) said that his salary used to be KD650 a month but it was reduced to KD510 upon retirement in 1979. He added that he was obliged to take an advance on his pension and use it for building a house. He added that subsequently he received only KD270 a month. He added that he will now have to get this payment for the rest of his life. He added that he got KD18,000 ten years ago against 25 percent of his pension. But the money deducted from his pension till today amounts to more than 19,000. Effectively I am a loser, he said.

He added that families of retired employees should get their payments after their death. He called on the social security establishment to reconsider its laws and regulations specially that relate to the advance taken on a part of the retirement payment.

Saleh Al Butainan said that retired employees can

benefit from the system of taking an advance against a part of the retirement payment. The gained money (loan) can be used in building and furnishing their houses or spent on marriage of their sons. But the problem in this system is that retired employee end up with a payment out all his life. He added that a few months ago he needed money and wanted to avail of an advance against his pension, but the SSE refused because he is already 65 years old. The wife of the retired employee gets a monthly donation from Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour after death of her husband. But he recommended that it is better to continue paying his widow even after his death.

Mohammed Mubarak (44-year-old) said that he retired last year. His payment was reduced from KD605 to KD320 a month after retirement. He added that he took an advance which requires cutting 100 dinars of his payment so he now gets KD220 only. He added that he needed the funds to improve the living standard of his family. But he added that his payment now is not sufficient to maintain his family. He commented that this system has positive and negative sides. He described the law that deprives women of her husband's pension after his death as an unjust law. It is not fair that our wives and children get the donations from Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and are deprived from getting the payments of their husbands, he said.

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Call for lactose-free milk production

Seminar on dairy products

A RENOWNED doctor has called upon dairy companies to produce lactose-free milk for consumption in Kuwait. Head of the Cultural Committee of the Kuwaiti Medical Association, Dr. Hassan Abu Ghazala, said that the consumption of lactose, (a milk sugar) causes pain, acidity and gas in the intestine.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Kuwaiti Agricultural Engineering Society on "dairy production in Kuwait", Abu Ghazala said that the cause of these symptoms is attributed to the fact that when

people stop drinking milk for a long time, an enzyme called lactase, which digests the lactose, is greatly reduced in the body. He added that European countries have solved this problem by producing lactose-free milk and now this is now available to consumers there.

Liquid

Dr Abu Ghazala also called for production of liquid milk for infants instead of milk powder, in case mothers do not want to breast-feed them. He said that liquid milk

is healthier and suits the digestive systems of infants and children. He advised mothers not to depend upon maids to prepare milk for their children.

Abu Ghazala said that Arabs in the past used to consume large quantities of milk by mixing it with dates to make it a complete food. But he regretted that the latest statistics, reveal that the people of the East consume milk the least.

The chairman of a local dairy company described Kuwait as one of the advanced

countries in this field. He said that the dairy industry began in Kuwait over 25 years ago in co-operation with the Danish Dairies Union. He said that the factory of the company, considered to be the third largest in the world, produces over 20 varieties of dairy products beside 78 varieties of ice creams and several other products. Ezzat Jaafar said that the factory is computerised and is run by the most advanced electronic equipment. He added that the capital of his company is over KD10 million.

Patients and escorts misbehave, say nurses

Nurses considered servants

A LOCAL daily interviewed a number of nurses at clinics and hospitals to obtain an overview of their opinions related to their medical profession.

The head of the nursing staff at Ibn Sina Hospital, Safiya Al Sharah, stated that the profession of nursing is strongly related to dealing with all types of people and that it is but natural to face problems. She added that it is hard to satisfy all people at all times. But the real problem is that a large section of patients complain of a shortage in services. It is unfair to compare free health services with other countries whose health services are dispensed with a pre-condition of payment, she said.

She stressed that nurses are only human and may sometimes "not be up to the mark" due to external pressures while on duty. Many patients don't realise this fact. She pointed out that most of the nursing staff at the hospital encounter further problems from patients' escorts at hospitals rather than from patients' themselves.

Muna Al Meel, a nurse for nine years, and currently working at the men's section in Ibn Sina Hospital, stated that dealing with male patients requires more tact as it is more sensitive than dealing with children or female patients. She added that most of the patients she deals with are elderly and that she considers them identical to children.

Some of the patients admitted to the hospital consider hospital workers along with utilities as their personal property. Therefore, they consider nurses as their servants and in turn behave according to this understanding.

Harassment Muna added that nurses should forgive patients if subject to harassment and should acquire high spirits. Kuwait as a cosmopolitan society has many nationalities and therefore, nurses are more at ease in dealing with Arabic-speaking patients than expats. She said that usually experts require translators to clearly explain their ailments.

She pointed out that nurses may face further problems from visitors. Most visitors do not comply with visiting hours causing disturbance while nurses perform their duties. Some of the duties cannot be performed in the presence of visitors. She added that a number of youths cause harassment to nurses, particularly to the opposite sex. She stated that bad behaviour is not confined to any particular nationality. Such cases are not reported to the police in most instances. But, they are usually reported to the administration which takes necessary action.

Muna indicated that a large section of residents still believe in some wrong ideas about the nursing profession in general. She stressed that television is one essential medium that should direct its efforts towards developing residents' understanding of the role played by nurses at clinics and hospitals. She added that most Kuwaiti females have come to believe that the nursing profession is highly suited to females. A number of Kuwaiti nurses have proved proficient in the field, she said.

She pointed out that Kuwaiti females may avoid joining the profession due to the shifts system which requires working late night hours. Most families do not accept this fact; therefore, females are urged to form a relationship of trust between them and their families.



A nurse at a Kuwait hospital scrubbing up before surgery.

Meanwhile, Zahra Abdul Imam, the assistant head nurse at the Kidney Centre has been working at this profession for the past ten years after graduating from the Nursing Institute. She said that the nursing profession, like any other, both has negative and positive aspects. But, she described it as a difficult job due to the fact that nurses deal with a wide variety of nationalities with varied outlooks.

She complained that some patients do not understand the definition of nursing. Such cases impose bigger pressure on nurses at the centre. She praised the role played by the Nursing Institute in effectively spreading awareness towards the value of this humane profession. She stated that society is presently having a different view towards the profession but, still some wrong ideas exist. Not every man permits female relatives to work as nurses. It is still hard for men to accept that due to the innate nature of the job, nurses have to stay outside the home sometimes or may stay late. This is why the number of Kuwaiti nurses is low as compared with other nationalities, she said.

Incentives

Zahra is a Kuwaiti and said that her husband has shown great support and fully understands the quality of her job. She added that Kuwaiti nurses find many incentives since they first joined the Nursing Institute. She said that she has received monthly bonuses while attending the institute, transportation and text books were free of charge in addition to training courses offered at hospitals. She pointed out that Kuwaiti nurses receive KD70 monthly in addition to their salaries as shift allowances.

At another location at Amiri Health area, an interview was conducted with Najat Zaman, the technical health supervisor for schools in the area. She pointed

out that the Ministry of Public Health suffers from a shortage in the nursing staff and is trying all methods possible to encourage females, especially Kuwaitis to join the Nursing Institute.

Studies by the Ministry of Health showed that most Kuwaiti females try to avoid working as nurses mainly because this type of profession requires staying late outside the house during working hours. The issue on the amount of salaries paid for nurses is the second reason. She stressed that the Nursing Society has exerted great efforts to facilitate the job functions of the nursing staff. Some incentives include offering them driving licences and raising salaries.

Samiya Mohammed Husain, a Kuwaiti nurse working since 1977, called upon officials to provide outside clinics and health centres more security protection. She pointed out that most problems are referred to the administration usually and that at times harassment incidents are reported to the police. She said that the profession of nursing requires further information coverage in order to encourage females to embrace this humanitarian profession in larger numbers.

Money markets

KUWAIT, Aug 6, (KUNA): A delegation grouping deputy director general of the Kuwait Money Market Abdullah Al Sdairewi, secretary general of Arab Bourses Union Dr Safak Al Rakaibi and director of the Kuwait Money Market Mohammed Hassan today left here for Muscat.

The visit aims at congratulating Omani officials for the opening of the new Muscat money market and getting acquainted with the market's regulations and system as well as exchanging expertise and data in such a field.

Arab news agencies under fire

ABU DHABI, Aug 6, (Reuters): Arab national news agencies are failing to do their jobs properly and should be replaced by an independent Arab Press Agency, a Gulf newspaper said today.

"We wish that Arab news agencies were the primary source of reports on Arab issues but regrettably news about them is found mainly in the four main international newspapers," the United Arab Emirates "Al Khaleej" paper said in an editorial.

The paper described staff at the Arab agencies as "Helpless journalists who are carrying out government policies."

Almost all the news agencies in the 21-nation Arab League are government-owned.

"Al Khaleej" said that with the possible exception of reports from the Kuwait News Agency KUNA, Arabic newspapers found it hard to use Arab agency news.

The paper said a joint, private agency should be formed, run on a professional basis and free from government guidelines.

"Such an agency will not only be of great benefit to Arab media, but its voice will be heard in the media all over the world," it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, Aug 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir has sent a congratulatory cable to the Bolivian President on the occasion of his country's national day.

Zayed 'versary

ABU DHABI, Aug 6, (KUNA): The United Arab Emirates today celebrated the 23rd anniversary of President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan's assumption of power.

All federal ministries and establishments enjoyed a public holiday on this occasion.

Born in 1918 Sheikh Zayed became ruler of the UAE's largest Emirate, Abu Dhabi, in 1966.

Sheikh Zayed and rulers of the other emirates, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain, Ajman and Fujairah, established in 1971 the United Arab Emirates.

Qaboos visit

MUSCAT, Aug 6, (KUNA): Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of Oman is due to start a two-day private visit to Saudi Arabia tomorrow, it was announced here today.

Radio Muscat said Sultan Qaboos will meet during the visit the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdel Aziz, but did not elaborate.

E. German envoy

KUWAIT, Aug 6, (KUNA): Ambassador of German Democratic Republic to Kuwait Kurt Merkel affirmed that his country does not intend to establish diplomatic relations with Israel as long as the Palestinian cause remained unresolved.

The East German diplomat added in a statement to a local Kuwaiti daily, that although East Germany calls for the Palestinians' recognition of all countries of the region to exist, it also maintains "strong and traditional relations" with the Palestinians through their leader Yasser Arafat.

He said that President of Democratic Germany Erich Honecker had met Arafat several times and he understands and supports the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's policy.

He also indicated his country's full support to the Palestinian uprising in the Occupied Territories.

Postponement

RIYADH, Aug 6, (KUNA): A meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council Foreign Ministers' Undersecretaries previously scheduled to convene in Kuwait on Aug 15, has been postponed, it was announced here today.

Sources of the GCC General Secretariat said that consultations are currently underway among six member states to fix a new date for the meeting.



It's better on a camel

A man from Qatar travelling the globe on his camel arrived in Kuwait Thursday evening to start the second stage of a journey around the world. Saleh Mohammed Al Shemari arrived at the public cafe in Sharq where he was officially received by the Planning Minister and Deputy Director of the Red Crescent Society Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi. The Qatari Ambassador in Kuwait, Ali Al Noaimi, the Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui, the general director of public affairs and members of the Red Crescent Society.

The adventurer said that his arrival in Kuwait marks the second stage of his trip around the world which started in Saudi Arabia. Saleh added that the journey aims at spreading over the world which he considers an international humanitarian duty.

Saleh will be going to Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, China and then Australia if permitted to enter. He pointed out that the journey will take as long as two years and a half to complete. One of the main difficulties he faced while passing through Saudi terrain were hot temperatures and humidity, he said, therefore, he tries to avoid travelling during the day.

Saleh foresees other difficulties on his onward journey like passing the mountains area in Iran and India.

He stated that his reason to select riding camels as a vehicle of transportation during his journey is because of its historical roots the fact being that camels were an essential factor during the onset of the Islamic era.

The traveller thanked both the governments of Iraq and Iran for granting him the permission to enter their lands. He added that this will represent a symbolic peace process between both countries since he is going to pass through their borders.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Mazroui praised the journey and stressed that it shows that Gulf youth are willing to go through difficulties.

He wished the Qatari adventurer a good stay in Kuwait saying that the ministry and the Red Crescent Society will work together to organise a special programme for him during his stay. (Photo by Ahmed Burini)



A huge fire engulfs a large paper manufacturing company in Mina Al Abdulla industrial area.

GOIC study

Establish maintenance workshops

DOHA, Aug 6, (GNA): THE Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, (GOIC) has called for establishing maintenance workshops in each industrial area in the GCC states to provide maintenance services for small and medium industries. It said that this will greatly reduce huge costs paid by factories to acquire its own maintenance workshops. The study which was conducted recently said that small and medium industries in GCC states face real challenges and difficulties concerning maintenance in spite of the fact that they were established in modern industrial areas.

It added that the major problems facing Gulf industries concerning maintenance is the high costs of maintenance, lack of planned maintenance programmes, difficulty in obtaining some spare parts, exaggeration in storing some other spare parts and the lack of specialised maintenance personnel in industry.

Dependence

The study said that most of the GCC medium scale industries depend in its maintenance on its own workshops, thus bearing high costs. Small industries, however, cannot afford to acquire specialised maintenance equipment or pay for full time maintenance workers and thus have to depend upon external maintenance workshops. Such private workshops are widespread in most of the GCC industrial areas with the exception of a few of them. But these workshops lack the necessary operational requirements particularly relating to the supply of

spare parts. They also lack precision in repairs and operation, while some of them offer high quality service but they cannot meet the necessary maintenance services required by the factories.

The GOIC proposed that a central maintenance workshop should be established in each industrial area in the GCC states to provide maintenance services to small and medium industries. It said that such central workshops can carry out programmed maintenance in addition to some modifications in production lines. They can help in providing specialised technical staff to carry out preventive maintenance and provide technical consultancy to factories. But it stressed that the establishment of such central workshops should not mean that all factories should get rid of its own maintenance staff or other means as long as these prove to be economical and beneficial.

The study expected that such workshops can achieve a number of important services. They can potentially reduce the cost of maintenance and help in speedy import or replacement of damaged spare parts. The workshops can develop specialised staff in industrial maintenance and thus can provide efficient and accurate service.

Factories can also depend upon such workshops in obtaining spare parts and thus do not need to store them. They can also provide training to factories staff. GOIC said that here are chances to establish such workshops in Iraq, Oman and Kuwait.

Dependants exempt from paying loans of deceased

KUWAIT, Aug 6, (KUNA): The Council of Ministers held its ordinary session here today under the chairmanship of acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

At the outset of the session Sheikh Sabah briefed the cabinet on his several hours visit to Saudi Arabia Saturday during which he delivered a verbal message from HH the Amir to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz.

In a statement following the meeting, Planning Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr Abdel Rahman Abdallah Al Awadi also said that Sheikh Sabah informed the cabinet members on the outcome of last week's visit to Kuwait by Gambian President Dawda Jawara.

The ministers were also informed by Sheikh Sabah on the outcome of the recent mission by two Amiri envoys, Organisation of Islamic Conference's Secretary General Dr Hamid Al Ghabid and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shabeh in Ankara and Sofia.

On reviewing political affairs and recent developments on both Arab and international levels, Awadi said, the cabinet expressed deep concern over the grave deterioration of the situation in Lebanon "which resulted in bitter sufferings of the Lebanese people."

The ministers voiced dismay and disappointment at those regrettable developments in Lebanon and appealed to the higher Tripartite Arab Committee entrusted by the Arab League to resolve the Lebanese crisis to go ahead with its good offices to reach an end to that tragic situation.

The cabinet also urged all parties to co-operate with the committee which groups the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon and restore security, stability and national unity of that brotherly country.

The Council of Ministers took note of minutes of the committee of exempting families of deceased Kuwaitis from paying loans due on them to the Credit and Savings Bank. After considering the committee's recommendations in this regard, the cabinet approved them.

The meeting also discussed the problem of garbage, construction and industrial wastes with all its adverse hazards on health and environment, and called for curbing this problem through modern and scientific concepts.

The cabinet urged departments concerned to speed up the establishment of a general centre of waste materials to deal with the problem more properly.

The council also discussed a number of other issues and adopted appropriate decisions on them.

Begging is anathema to Kuwait: official

Use proper channels, people urged

ASSISTANT Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Mosques and Pilgrimage Abdul Rahman Al Fares said that some people consider begging as a profession and an easy source of income. But, he added that begging is anathema to the State of Kuwait. The number of beggars has dropped due to the spread of Islamic awareness among people. We now see only few beggars at the doors of mosques, roads and in front of hospitals and banks compared to their numbers in the past, the official said.

Nevertheless, the existence of beggars however, misleads the face of Kuwait society, he said. He added that a Muslim who is ordered by Allah to work should not beg. Muslims should not depend on others in getting their livelihood. Begging also confuses people in mosques and places of gatherings as well as traffic movement. Some people are injured and killed at roads while they are rushing to beg from drivers, he said.

Problem Fares did not believe that need is the only reason for begging in Kuwait. He added that Kuwaiti people know and support each other. But there are some strange people from out of Kuwait who residing here intend to collect a fortune by begging in Kuwait claiming they are poor. He added that all relevant ministries should co-operate to solve this problem

specially the information and education ministries. They should enlighten people about real reasons that encourage these beggars and teaching them the reality of Islam that rejects humiliation, fraud and cheating others.

He added that the Ministry of Awqaf does not encourage people to beg but it fights it. He distributed many orders and circulars to imams of mosques to warn Muslims from the inherent dangers of begging. He denied that the Ministry of Awqaf granted anyone a licence to beg at mosques. The ministry only issues licences to collect money for charitable projects, building mosques and religious institutes as well as supporting the mujahideen in any part of the world. Fares advised citizens and expatriates not to be cheated by beggars and their false tears.

There are many charitable institutions in Kuwait like Zakat House, the Islamic International Charity Organisation and Zakat committees in different mosques. There are also charitable committees like Daawa Committee and Charitable Support of Palestinian and Lebanese People Committee and the Social Reform Society, he said and added that charity should be routed through these channels.

Meanwhile, the director of security at Hawalli Governorate Colonel Abdul Aziz Al

Shamlan said that Kuwait society did not know the problem of begging since it was established because it is society of one family where its members support each other. There was no begging in Kuwait in the past. Presently, the state supports citizens through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. He added beggars in Kuwait are non-Kuwaitis. They aim to get money illegally. Some women and children beg from houses, mosques and roads, he said. He added that begging is a social disease as well as a security problem. Some criminals pretend to beg and enter into houses for stealing and assaulting innocent people. He added that security staff are interested and concerned in taking required procedures to put an end to begging in the country. This can be achieved by chasing and deporting these beggars. We order some CID men to observe places in which beggars are active in order to arrest them. We also ask the public to notify police centres and patrols about places of these beggars, he said. He called on citizens and expatriates not to encourage beggars by refusing to give them money. The children who are seized begging are handed to their parents who sign a pledge for them. He denied that beggars in Kuwait work through an organisation or group that run this illegal work. Begging is on an individual basis, the official said.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING goes swifter than the years — Ovid, Roman poet (about 43 B.C. to 17 A.D.)

OPINION

Aoun answers distress signal

WILLY-NILLY. Gen. Aoun has become a national leader in Lebanon.

In the past, no one in Lebanon dared to talk about the invading forces, let alone do anything about it because they feared reprisals — the easiest of which was death through a sniper's bullet, or a booby-trapped car or a time-bomb or such other modus operandi in the arsenal of assassins.

After the death of the opponent, representatives of the invading forces used to participate in the funeral and issue a long communique on principles, emphasising their opposition to assassination, robbery and killings and their support for Arab nationalism, Islam and Muslims as well as for all religions in the world.

Gen. Aoun's arrival on the scene brought with him the true Lebanese cry which the Lebanese were whispering for fear of quick death. Aoun voiced what the Lebanese people deeply sought and restored its glorious past as a country of harmony, tranquillity and brotherhood. The country indeed needed a person who, with all candour and openness declared that the solution to the Lebanese crisis centred on the withdrawal of foreign forces.

Obviously, Aoun's cry is not only distressing to some within Lebanon itself — it echoes far beyond and could lead to a positive and important turnaround. An identical cry is sorely needed by other countries where its people are suffering. Perhaps, this is the secret behind Aoun's stiff resistance and the secret behind the insistence to still this voice at any cost.

But attempts to silence Aoun will be a Herculean "up-hill task." Suffice it to say that it is enough to mix with the Lebanese people to gauge their true feelings which have now begun to mushroom and understand why it is absolutely difficult for any opposition to defeat Aoun. Obviously, Aoun is simply representing Lebanon and the true feelings of its people. Any other surmise is contrary and must be classified as lies and attempts at distorting facts.

The demands and aspirations of the Lebanese people are crystal clear — they totally support Aoun's demands for a free and independent Lebanon. Additionally, the concepts of Aoun will have a reflection on other countries where the situation has reached unbearable limits.

If the failure of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon becomes an established fact (the committee did not hesitate to say who threw a "monkey-wrench" in the wheel of solution), Gen. Aoun will have the option to seek assistance from any source to force the invaders to leave.

The claim that they have the power will be of no avail — matters will be decided on the battlefield. The revenge of the Lebanese people against those who instigated the bloodshed will be of a severe magnitude this time around.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

PRESS REVIEW

The Observer (independent) on the hostages in Lebanon:

"Breathe it not too loud. But it is just possible that we are at the beginning of the last chapter of the awful hostage story in the Lebanon. At the beginning, it should be stressed, not the end itself. For all the comforting statements coming from Iran's new President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, the best the West can probably hope for is the early release of a minor hostage to show willing. The prizes, the Andersons and the Waites (if indeed Terry Waites is still alive) may have to languish for months, even years, before any negotiations can free them. Nor will it do to show too much of either eagerness or anger at this stage. Too much interest will simply raise the price in this most abominable of all trades. Too much anger will simply endanger their lives, and to no purpose. To talk, as some members of Congress do, of bombing Tehran and sending in the marines flies in the face of every act of history in the region. Anyone who knows anything about the hostage-takers understands that these are not men who can be frightened into giving up their most valuable acquisitions. ... The reason for hope at this stage is that the politics of the region have changed. Iran has a new government, or rather the absence of an unyielding one, which is both more civilian in its composition and more flexible in its approach. It would be a mistake to believe that Rafsanjani is so eager for better relations with the West and that he is ready to do anything to achieve that end. But he and his colleagues appear to have reached the conclusion that the hostage situation needs to be solved if Iran is to move ahead. The belief will not necessarily translate itself into action. Rafsanjani has considerable factional opposition within ... so the West must act with care and with patience. It needs to support Rafsanjani, but not so obviously as to arouse his opponents. It needs to negotiate, but not so enthusiastically as to what the appetites of the captors. It must show that the hostages really are a major obstacle to any future developments in the Middle East, but not so aggressively as to arouse new tensions." (AP)

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1502 — French drive Spaniards from Canossa in southern Italy.
- 1647 — English army marches into London after proposals to crown are rejected.
- 1804 — US fleet bombards Mediterranean port of Tripoli.
- 1897 — Egyptian force takes Abu Hamed in Sudan.
- 1912 — Russia and Japan sign agreement determining spheres of influence in Mongolia and Manchuria.
- 1941 — Soviet planes carry out their first bombing raids against Berlin, Germany, in World War II.
- 1942 — US forces land on Guadalcanal in Pacific during World War II.
- 1945 — Soviet Union declares war on Japan seven days before Japanese surrender in World War II.
- 1959 — Chinese invade northeast frontier province of India.
- 1960 — Ivory Coast becomes independent of France.
- 1964 — People's republic of the Congo is inaugurated.
- 1971 — Three US Apollo 15 astronauts make safe splashdown in Pacific Ocean after their moon visit.
- 1975 — Lower House of India's Parliament approves constitutional amendment stripping courts of power to hear cases of thousands of people held as political prisoners.
- 1987 — Sikh separatists massacre 12 people in Punjab, India, and government declares security alert.
- 1988 — Three boats carrying almost 200 passengers capsized in Jamuna river in Bangladesh during earthquake, and about 30 people are feared drowned.

Communist Party takes a bashing

Shift in power structure

THE end of the new Supreme Soviet's first session marked a dramatic five-month period in which workers and upstart politicians aided by Mikhail S. Gorbachev shook the well-oiled communist machine's stranglehold on power.

Beginning with elections to the Congress of People's Deputies parliament in March, through the July coal miners' strike and the final days of the legislative session that ended Friday, officials who have dominated Soviet life for more than a half-century took an unprecedented bashing.

The party is still undoubtedly the strongest force in society, primarily because it has for decades crushed all potential opposition. Gorbachev's authority is not questioned. But those who traditionally have wielded power only because of their position in the apparatus were left dazed and unsure.

Faced with their first competitive elections, dozens of party members were humiliated by voters. Others were exposed to the fury of miners who can't buy enough soap. A half-dozen were rejected by the Supreme Soviet for cabinet jobs. New deputies criticised Gorbachev, rewrote tax and labour laws, and even suggested that Vladimir I. Lenin be removed from his mausoleum on Red Square and buried.

Deputies "literally burst onto the podium with their platforms, programme proposals, accusations." Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov told a high-level party meeting in July. "But the Politburo ended up over on the side, in some kind of isolated state, as if some paralysis syndrome were at work on it."

"A real and mighty power has appeared — the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet. And we cannot refuse to come to grips with it. If the party does not find a way out of this situation, it may lose its influence in running the government," Ryzhkov warned.

It was a small consolation that 85 per cent of the deputies are members of the party. Like never before, they are unconstrained by a strict party line.

Former candidate Politburo member Boris N. Yeltsin turned his rocky relationship with the party into a populist campaign against incompetence and special privilege. A week ago several hundred deputies joined him in forming the first organised parliamentary opposition in about 70 years.

Party organisations in the independent-minded Baltic republics are pressing local demands first, and then seeing how they fit Kremlin plans.

Some local leaders not only did nothing to control the coal strikes, they joined in.

Regional officials are pleading with Gorbachev to lay down the law on what it means to be a communist.

"It's time to clearly determine where is the limit of party and government discipline, and where is pluralism of opinion," Absamat Masaliev, head of the party in the central Asian republic Kirghizia, told the party gathering.

"We don't see a hard line on ideological questions," added Leonid F. Bobykin, party leader in the Sverdlovsk region of Russia.

Lev N. Zaikov, party leader in Moscow and a member of the ruling Politburo, said the lack of clear direction has upset many local party organisations. They've reacted by doing nothing.



Gorbachev finds himself in two roles: both Luther and the Pope

Since the time of Lenin, a clear purpose and strong organisation have meant power for the Communist Party, even when it was badly outnumbered. For decades officials in the government, party, and semi-official organisations like trade unions, all in solid party standing, have been the glue that held the system together.

Today many of those people are confused and hesitant.

"How has this come about — a party organisation consisting of thousands, with its own newspapers, its own professional staff, with everything at its disposal, finds the initiative slipping out of its grasp?" Gorbachev mused.

The way out of the dilemma, he said, is to "eliminate the shortage of something tomorrow, or settle an ecological question or improve transit services."

Instead of handing local officials a detailed party line, he has shown that he is willing to side with their critics.

It was Gorbachev who masterminded the electoral system that ended up embarrassing dozens of key party officials, including candidate Politburo member Yuri F. Solov'yev, who subsequently retired from his job as Leningrad regional party leader.

The strike by hundreds of thousands of miners reiterated that common people are taking to heart Gorbachev's call to action. This spasm of unrest for the first time was based on something all Soviets have in common — the poor state of the economy.

Gorbachev sympathised with the strikers and

promised changes.

Their activity gave Gorbachev a large but intangible victory in his drive to turn more power back to the people. However, that leads to the question at the heart of his reform effort: what will the people do with power if and when they get it?

There is no answer yet to that question. But at least one political scientist, Andronik Migranyan, wonders how long people will allow Gorbachev to lead them against the party apparatus he heads.

Gorbachev "practically found himself two roles: both Luther and the Pope," Migranyan wrote in the July issue of the respected monthly Novy Mir. "He wants to destroy the existing structures, and at the same time personifies those structures for the public. And certainly, lack of successes which are due to the clumsy function of the party and state structure weaken his role as leader."

Even Politburo members warn that if Gorbachev's authority slips and the party cannot improve its standing, the Soviet Union may spin out of control.

An end to the Communists' hold on absolute power would be "simply deadly," said Conservative Yegor K. Ligachev. "A multi-party system would mean the breakup of the Soviet federation ... because the Communist Party is the only real political force that binds and unites all people of the country into a single union of republics." (Moscow, AP)

East Germans driven by despair

Exodus continues at unparalleled rate

EAST GERMANS have been fleeing in record numbers this year, testing newly porous borders of the East and the hospitality of the West.

Western specialists attribute the rise in emigration and escapes to a diminishing belief among East Germans that reforms elsewhere in the Soviet Bloc will soon affect their lives.

The number of despairing East Germans climbing, crawling and catapulting their way West has swelled to a rate unparalleled since the flood of escapees that was dammed by construction of the Berlin Wall on Aug 13, 1961.

Private and government agencies who help resettle refugees say they expect about 100,000 East Germans to make it to West Germany by the end of this year.

And those braving the heavily fortified borders are now joined by new breed of escapees who obtain legal permission to travel abroad, then refuse to return or escape through Hungary.

"It is a sense that grows stronger each day among East Germans that they have no hope, no perspectives for better days as long as the current regime is in power," said Rainer Hildebrandt, director of the August 13th Society that aids East German refugees.

"The fact that 50 per cent of those escaping now are under the age of 24 is testimony to the general despair felt there," Hildebrandt told the Associated Press.

About 10,000 East Germans with legal tourist visas have sought asylum in West Berlin so far this year, and at least 70,000 legal emigrants are expected by the end of the year.

A West German official here who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed there are at least 200

East Germans seeking asylum at Bonn's embassies in Budapest, Prague and East Berlin.

"We advise against this method as there are continuing dangers involved, and there is simply no way to accommodate people at the representations," the official said.

In Budapest, where an estimated 130 East Germans are seeking refugee status and access to West Germany, authorities have hinted that they may recognise a right to asylum, but no decisions have been made yet.

West Germany's deputy minister for inter-German relations, Walter Priesnitz, warned last week that East Germans should not try to leave through Hungary without the proper documents.

In the court of democratic reform, Hungary has dismantled nearly half of the 260-kilometre (160-mile) barbed-wire border separating it from the West. But Hungarian border guards still patrol the frontier.

Some East Germans who have tried to cross into Austria without East German exit visas have had their passports stamped by Hungarian authorities to reflect the illegal departure attempt.

Help

Austrian officials have been approached for help by 237 East Germans who fled across the border since the Hungarians began dismantling their stretch of the Iron Curtain in May. But they estimate up to six times that number have gone directly to the West German embassy in Vienna after arriving via Hungary.

West German diplomats in Vienna refuse to give any figures, but the Berlin official confirmed that East Germans are applying for West German papers at the Vienna Embassy in ever-increasing numbers.

More than 40 were at the embassy on Monday alone.

"They say, the barriers have been taken their way, as if you could stroll across with a suitcase in your hand," said an East German nurse at the Vienna Embassy. "It was hell," she said of her family's escape by darkness.

The nurse said the family drove their car with the lights out to within a few hundred metres of the border, then left it and most of their other possessions behind as they made their way across in darkness on foot.

The Hungarian interior ministry official responsible for refugee affairs, Judith Toth, has said a refugee camp will be erected in Budapest for those seeking asylum. The camp, first planned for ethnic Hungarians leaving Romania, would be open to all refugees seeking political asylum. But no protective facilities exist at the moment, and those seeking refuge at the West German embassy now may be forced to return to East Germany.

Detlef Kuehn, president of the Institute for Inter-German Affairs, told the Associated Press that the West German government advises East Germans to seek legal means of emigrating, but acknowledged that the majority of applicants must wait years.

"It is hopeless that is driving so many here," Kuehn said. "There are no limits on the number of East Germans that we will take in. But we have no interest in depopulating East Germany."

One East Berliner, who did not want his name used, told the AP that East Germans are turning to Hungary as an escape route because the prospects for reform in their own nation seem ever dimmer. (AP — Berlin)

Afghan war poses dilemma for doctors

AT the height of the rocket attack on the Afghan capital, Red Cross doctors had to decide who to save.

A young woman, legs blown off in a rocket blast, was too badly injured to survive without hours of surgery. In the time she would have spent on the operating table several other victims might have been saved.

She was given a shot of morphine to ease the pain, put into a tent reserved for the mortally wounded and allowed to die.

George Muheim, Red Cross co-ordinator in Kabul, said cars and taxis were bringing in the seriously injured too fast for the two surgical teams to keep up.

"This is one of the most difficult things in a war hospital. If we operate on one person for six to eight hours then we are going to allow another six to die," he said.

On that July Saturday when a shower of rockets fired by mujahideen rebels struck Kabul, more than 35 people were killed instantly and more than 100 injured. Ten of the injured died in hospital.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital about five km (three miles) from the city centre was swamped with the casualties.

Many were dreadfully mutilated, cut to pieces by the shrapnel that causes most damage in the increasingly frequent rocket attacks.

The ICRC opened the hospital last October to

treat the victims of the 10-year-old civil war between the Soviet-backed government and the Western-supported mujahideen.

"We admit all war wounded that show up," Muheim said, adding that no distinction was made between soldiers, civilians or rebels disguised as civilians.

Treating the mujahideen can be fraught with problems. "We deal with it very simply. We never ask questions," said Muheim, who is from Switzerland.

The hospital is in two big villas, with a general men's ward built in the gardens out of old freight containers.

Thousands of containers, which bring food and other goods to Kabul, are put to ingenious use by Kabul's — becoming instant garages, refugee homes or roadside shops.

Most of the time there are between 80 and 90 patients in the hospital, but it can squeeze in 150.

According to United Nations figures, 281 civilians were killed in Kabul between June 25 and the end of July and almost 750 were seriously wounded.

"Some patients we get after 10 to 15 minutes. If they had not got treatment within 30 minutes or so they would have died," Muheim said.

"The critical time limit for treatment is six hours. After that infection sets in, particularly in war wounds where shrapnel or bullets drive pieces of

clothing and dirt deep into the body.

Unlike conventional surgery, such wounds are kept open for up to a week to make sure there is no infection.

Up to one-fifth of the patients are children.

Most are hurt by shrapnel, but some are badly burned by magnesium flares dropped by Soviet and Afghan aircraft to deflect rebel anti-aircraft missiles.

The giant Soviet IL-76 transports that bring food and weapons to the Kabul government spit out up to 150 of the flares as they spiral in and out of the airport.

Sometimes the flares, which leave a herringbone pattern of smoke in the sky, are still burning when they hit the ground or fail to ignite until found by inquisitive children.

Muheim, a 52-year-old surgeon who has worked in war hospitals in Pakistan, on the Thai border with Cambodia and in Beirut, said the injuries in Kabul were particularly nasty.

As he was speaking, doctors examined a 13-year-old boy called Sayed whose face has been horribly mutilated by a mine explosion seven months earlier.

Blind and unable to close his mouth, he had been sent to the hospital for surgery by a visiting American plastic surgeon.

But for the boy from the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, and for many like him, the chances of normal life are slim. (Reuters Kabul)

Moment of truth nears in Cyprus

UN-sponsored talks on ending the 15-year-old division of Cyprus are approaching a moment of truth in the wake of a green line protest by Greek Cypriots, political sources said.

Tourists crowding coastal resorts rarely see the ugly scars of oil drums, barbed wire and minefields spreading east and west from the inland capital of Nicosia across the island's hot and dusty plains, made hotter by last month's protest.

But the buffer zone demonstration and the detention of 108 Greek Cypriots by Turkish Cypriots, have given "rejectionists" on both sides an excuse to back-pedal on an outline settlement.

"The real issue is the Cyprus problem. The demonstration is a symptom of the island's division, not the cause," a Western political source said.

The United Nations has given President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş a detailed blueprint for reunifying the island as a federal republic, split since 1974 when a Greek-backed coup in Nicosia prompted Turkey to invade and occupy the island's north.

A breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state set up there is recognised only by Ankara which backs it with an estimated 29,000 troops.

"The real challenge is to tackle each single issue. For example you cannot dodge a problem like the future guarantees for a federal republic. In the past such issues were referred to vague working groups."

"Now the leaders will tackle them themselves. Now we will see if it is possible for them to agree," the Western source said.

Political sources do not rule out an August meeting between the two leaders but stringent voices on both sides of the barbed wire have already been raised against the blueprint.

The small Greek-Cypriot Socialist Edele Party has said the blueprint was unacceptable, as did the centre-right Diko.

Although outnumbered by the right-wing rally and the communist Akel who back Vassiliou in wanting the talks to continue, Diko and Edele have proved they can be spoilers.

They have been blamed for spearheading a demonstration by mainly Greek-Cypriot women in a disputed part of the UN buffer zone that led Denktaş to call off his last scheduled meeting with Vassiliou.

"They've given Denktaş an excuse he was desperately looking for," said a retired Greek-Cypriot official.

Denktaş has also expressed opposition to the presentation of the UN proposals.

Denktaş, who emphasised that the UN outline was not a document, charged that the UN was preparing one in collaboration with the Greek Cypriots and called it a trick and a plot against the Turkish Cypriots.

"Denktaş and (Prime Minister) Eroglu do not want a document that gives weight to Turkish-Cypriot worries... they do not want result-oriented talks. In fact they neither want an agreement nor peace," the opposition Turkish-Cypriot Yenideniz daily said.

"Denktaş now realises that he has to make up his mind. Up to now a settlement was never envisioned," the Western political source said.

The UN has blamed both sides for the demonstration along the buffer zone, the Greek Cypriots for not preventing it and Turkish Cypriots for crossing into the zone and forcibly taking back protesters.

Over a hundred demonstrators were captured after baton-wielding Turkish-Cypriot riot police and troops with bayonets fixed, charged through a UN cordon and broke up the protest.

But while the dust settles, the UN is trying to make one point clear: its force of 2,100 soldiers, charged with maintaining the status quo in the buffer zone along the entire length of the island, cannot protect Greek-Cypriot demonstrators who violate the line.

"You cannot play with it. In some parts of the world you can get killed crossing a demilitarised zone," a military source said. (Nicosia — Reuters)

Quote me

6 "President Bush will have to accept reality. The Central American people are tired of war. We want peace." — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega discussing the disbanding of US-backed Contra rebels.

"I'll go there as a tourist to visit friends for some days and if the friends propose a game of rugby to me, I refuse." — Rodriguez, a rugby player said about the South African tour.

"I have two boys and I wouldn't take them to a soccer match. Sometimes I'm scared to go myself." — Neil Brookfield said about soccer violence as he prepared to watch two US teams play a pre-season game at Wembley.

"This is definitely one of the biggest races in my eighty years in triathlon. This is the race that will get our sport into the Olympics." — Mark Allen of US said after winning the first world triathlon championship.

"It's nice to be top of the money list but I am not losing sight of the fact that a lot of top players were absent this week, there's a long way to go." — Roman Rafferty said after he fired a seven-birdie 65 to hold off a storming challenge from Mike Allen for victory in the Scandinavian Open.

"We feel good about it. Everybody feels good about it. The team that worked on it, as far as they're concerned, it's a better vehicle than Atlantis or discovery." — Robert Sieck, shuttle Columbia's launch director said in an interview.

"I don't believe that the swap deal which Israel has proposed would succeed, and I don't expect an imminent release of the Israeli prisoners and the Western captives." — Nabih Berri, chief of the pro-Syrian Shiite Amal militia in Lebanon said.

"It will mean a lot taking the trophy back to America and we should recognise this event as a major championship." — Jane Geddes who fired a closing round 63 to capture the British Women's Open golf championship.

"I used to play soccer and I followed it avidly. But about 3-4 years ago, I felt the violence was getting too bad and I stopped going to games. Now nothing could get me back to a soccer match." — Allen Bentley said about the soccer violence.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

UK faces tight timetable

Plans to privatise water, power utilities

LONDON, Aug 6, (Reuters): The British government's ambitious plans to privatise the water and electricity utilities must overcome potentially serious hurdles if the multi-billion dollar sales are to go through on schedule.

The water industry of England and Wales is to be sold to the public in November for up to £7 billion (\$11 billion) and the £25 billion (\$40 billion) electricity privatisation is due to begin early next year.

But stock market analysts believe the government will have to work hard if it is to complete the two largest sales of its wide-ranging privatisation programme in time for the next general election, which must be called by June, 1992.

"I would not minimise the difficulties," said one analyst, "they are considerable."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has agreed to pump about £6 billion (\$10 billion) into the water industry to help pay off its debts and meet the cost of complying with higher standards of water purity demanded by the European Economic Community.

But the water industry estimates the cost of meeting EEC standards could be as high as £15 billion (\$24 billion).

Financial plans for the water industry are based on its being allowed to meet the new quality standards by 1995, rather than 1993 as demanded by the EEC.

If it is forced by the community

to bring in the changes sooner rather than later, the privatisation timetable may be affected, according to analysts who see two options.

The government may have to inject further capital into the industry to help it meet a shorter investment timetable. Or each water authority could be forced to rewrite financial plans appearing in the prospectuses for the sale.

"That's one of the big questions hanging over the privatisation," said Angela Whelan of stockbrokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd in London.

Thatcher's earlier privatisations such as the gas and telephone companies were welcomed by the public as an opportunity to make a quick killing on the stock market.

But the proposed water sale has been widely perceived to be unnecessary and there have been public fears that land owned by the water companies could be sold to property developers.

The privatisation aroused considerable unpopularity even before the announcement in late July that the water companies would be allowed to impose big price rises after privatisation.

The huge electricity sell-off, involving the restructuring of the whole industry, could run into snags over the dismantling of old nuclear power stations and the details of contracts between electricity generating and distributing companies.



Margaret Thatcher

Japan's GNP growth quickens

KD rate higher against dollar

BASED on the last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was higher against the dollar ending the week at 293.22 fils compared with its week before last closing of 294.21 fils.

The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 483.06 fils compared with its week before last closing of 487.36 fils.

The KD was slightly higher against the DM ending the week at 157.19 fils compared with its week before last closing of 157.44 fils.

The KD was slightly higher against the SFR ending the week at 182.29 fils compared with its week before last closing of 182.97 fils.

The KD was easier against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 506.08 compared with its week before last closing of 408.13 fils.

The KD was higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As to the KD money market, short-term interbank rates traded firmer over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week within 9.18 per cent-9.43 per cent range compared with 8.81 per cent-9.31 per cent range the week before last.

While 3-month interbank rates traded within 9.18 per cent-9.37 per cent range compared with 9.12 per cent-9.37 per cent range the week before last.

Rates for longer periods traded also firmer within a relatively wide range of 9.12 per cent-9.37 per cent and 9.12 per cent-9.31 per cent for 6 and 12 months respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices moved higher early in the week as a round of futures-related buying, strong bond prices and the resultant lower yields pushed prices higher.

However, prices eased later in the week on news that US non-farm payrolls in June were revised up to 250,000 from 180,000 and that the July unemployment rate fell to 5.27 per cent from 5.3 per cent in June.

The data shook investor confidence about any quick credit easing by the Fed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2660 and closed lower at 2653, but recorded a gain of 18 points over the previous week's closing of 2638.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange moved higher late in the week. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2297 and closed higher at 2330, recording a gain of 22 points over the previous week's closing of 2306.

US dollar

The dollar over the previous week traded mixed. After losing some grounds in the first part of the week mainly against the mark, sterling and the yen, later in the week it regained some of its losses, closing higher from its previous week's closing rates.

Over the early part of the week, the dollar dropped low against major currencies due to market expectations of further declines in US interest rates. Such expectations were bolstered by a flood of US banks' prime rate cuts to 10.5 per cent from 11 per cent, coupled with market expectations of weaker US employment data.

However, around mid-week, as conflict emerged in the Middle East regarding US hostages in Lebanon, the dollar regained some of its support.

The dollar has often been regarded as a safe-haven currency in times of political strife overseas.

While speculation over the US government reaction has kept the dollar supported up to its level well till the end of the week.

The US Labour Department announced that US unemployment rate was down in July to 5.2 per cent from 5.3 per cent in the month before last, while non-farm payroll for the month of July amounted to 169,000 as compared to 250,000 in June.

The department previously estimated June's non-farm job growth at 180,000 but revised it upward to 250,000. The released data created a split in views among economists.

Some believe the economy is still slowing into a soft landing, while others believe it is headed for a mild recession. "In our point view, and if we are not to consider one single economic datum we still believe the economy is heading for a soft landing which is to be cleared in the figures to be released in the weeks to come."

In the coming week, the dollar's direction would rest on more released data which is believed to continue to show the economy is slowing.

However, whether the political tension that has supported the dollar in the later part of the previous week would continue, remains to be seen. Accordingly, the dollar is expected to be vulnerable to swings, with more upturn potential.

Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the dollar at \$1.6455 and closed sharply lower at \$1.6050, 60 compared to its week before last closing of \$1.6525/35.

Recent losses have been attributed to sterling sales by UK clearing banks making loss provisions for dollar-denominated loans.

However, sterling's vulnerability to the downside may be over for the time being, given the relative height of UK interest rates and the readiness of the Bank of England to step in at the proper moment.

At present the immediate pressure is off, that is, until the week of August 14, when a series of economic indicators will determine the direction of rates.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the dollar at 137.10/20 yen and closed the week lower at 139.85/95 yen compared to its week before last closing of 139.12/22 yen.

Japan's economy has recently been showing signs of picking up again and the economic growth is more likely to top the government's 4 per cent forecast for the year ending next March.

Strong capital spending and steady personal consumption ensure faster GNP growth.

Japan's seasonally adjusted employment rate in June fell to 2.2 per cent, from 2.4 per cent in May.

The June unemployment rate is the lowest since February of 1982. While Japan's jobs to applicant ratio rose to 1.34 in June from 1.27 the previous month.

Japanese finance minister said the yen's recent rise against the dollar was not fast. While commenting on current levels of the yen against the dollar, he said the yen's rise is favourable.

"We expect the yen to trade within a narrow range with an upside potential. Accordingly, the yen is to trade against the dollar within 136-139 yen."

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.8665/75 marks and closed the week lower at 1.9050/60 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.8795/05 marks.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) raised its forecast for real W. German 1989 GNP growth to about 3.1, 4 per cent from an estimate of 3 per cent made earlier in June, while the OECD forecast GNP growth in 1990 would slow to 2.3-4 per cent.

The W. German economy since mid-1987, has performed considerably better than expected with demand and output rising strongly.

Precious metals

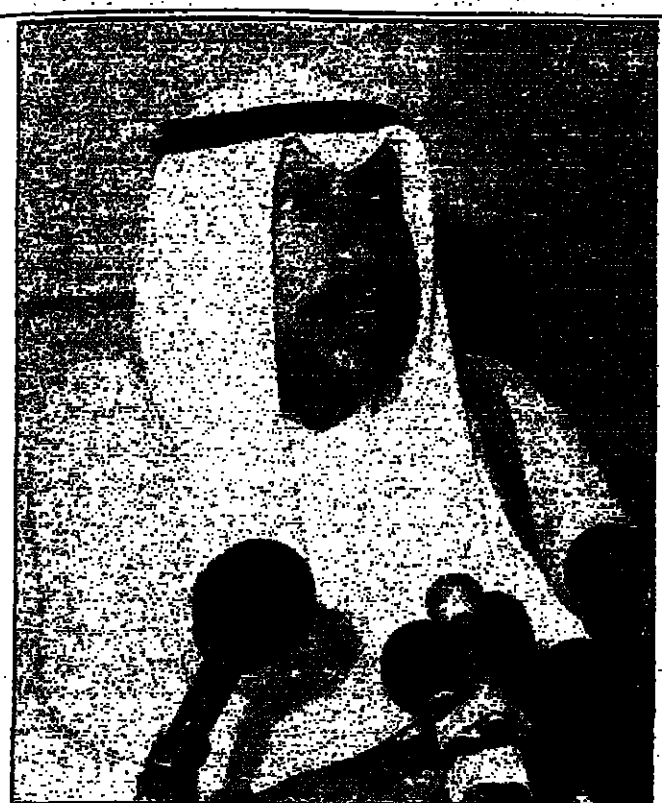
Precious metals prices, moved higher on short covering ahead of the weekend on concern about the hostage crisis in the Middle East, which appeared to outweigh the strength of the dollar, which would normally be bearish for gold.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 368.36\$/oz. and closed higher at 370.70/371.20 \$/oz. recording a gain of 1.70 \$/oz. over the previous week's closing of 369.309.50 \$/oz.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at 5.13/5.15 \$/oz. and closed higher at 5.24/5.26 \$/oz. recording a gain of 11 cents over the previous week's closing of 5.13/5.15 \$/oz.

Platinum prices opened the week at 492.493 \$/oz. and closed higher at 500/501.50 \$/oz. recording a gain of 7.50 \$/oz. over the previous week's closing of 493.494 \$/oz.

Provided by Gulf Bank weekly market review



Sheikh Saad

Conference on money markets

KUWAIT, Aug 6, (KUNA): A conference on merger of international money markets and its reflection on the Gulf Co-operation Council's countries is to be held on Oct 7-9 here under the auspices of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Chairwoman of the conference's preparatory committee Dr Moudi Al Hmoud today told KUNA that the gathering will study the effects of combining world money markets on the GCC states and follow up monetary developments and investments and investment policies in these markets.

She expected the participation of some 500 economists and businessmen representing financial and economic agencies from the GCC countries and other foreign countries.

Dr Moudi added that a number of lectures will be delivered at the conference which will be organised by Kuwait University, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Banks Committee, the National Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with Garn Institute in the United States.

Madrid under pressure to cut rates

Spain finds no soft economic options

MADRID, Aug 6, (Reuters): Since locking into the European Economic Community's currency exchange rate mechanism in June, Spain has learned quickly that there are no soft options for dealing with an overheated economy.

In what many financial analysts see as a test case for Britain's anguished debate over whether to join the European Monetary System, Spain is under pressure to cut its interest rates to prevent a strong peseta from forcing a realignment of the EMS's fluctuating bands.

But, even if it lowers interest rates, economists believe it will have little chance to tighten fiscal policy unless Madrid wants to risk stoking up domestic demand. That demand is already fuelling the biggest consumer boom in living memory.

A squeeze, which could mean raising taxes and cutting back on next year's budget, would be an unpalatable choice for the socialist government which may have to call an early election before embarking on potentially unpopular measures.

Economists say Spain's success or failure in tackling the policy dilemma could have a big impact on the membership debate raging in Britain.

Sterling is the only major EEC currency still outside the EMS. Portugal and Greece have also not yet joined.

With both the Spanish and British economies experiencing buoyant domestic demand, above average inflation and yawning trade and current account deficits, Spain's experience since joining EMS on June 19 is being closely watched in London.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, hinted as much in a major policy speech on the EMS in London in late July. "Spain's experience of joining in not wholly dissimilar circumstances will be illuminating," he said.

Spain opted for EMS membership because it thought it was the best way to underpin its anti-inflationary strategy. But British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher does not want sterling to join the exchange rate mechanism until inflation falls sharply.

"If Spain fails in its EMS membership, it is likely that an economy the size of Britain would also fail. I think the authorities in Britain will regard it as a test case," said David Morrison, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs in London.

Spain's policy dilemma has been aggravated by speculative inflows into the peseta, attracted by high Spanish interest rates and the knowledge that the exchange mechanism provides a safety net against a collapse in the currency.

Heavy dollar buying by the Bank of Spain to alleviate upward pressure on the peseta helped boost gold and currency reserves by \$1.65 billion in July.

Some economists believe that Spain's experience in EMS so far bears out the worst-case scenario outlined by Sir Alan Walters, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's economic adviser, who has argued against early British membership.

Walters believes the need for the Central Bank to take the steam out of an appreciating currency by lowering interest rates or intervening makes it harder to bring inflation under control.

"What we have seen so far is precisely what Alan Walters said you would see," said Goldman Sachs's Morrison.

Lower interest rates mean cheaper borrowing and a lift to economic activity while Central Bank purchases of foreign currency can boost money supply, which has a knock-on effect on inflation.

Despite heavy Bank of Spain intervention, the peseta is still 5.49 per cent stronger than the weakest currency in the system, the Danish crown, and nearing its six per cent fluctuation limit.

But some economists say they are not so sure whether Walters' arguments are applicable to the Spanish experience.

Spain has the option, however disagreeable, of raising taxes to sterilise the effects of lower interest rates, but a fiscal squeeze is something Britain's government would find hard even to contemplate, analysts said.

"EMS has the advantage that it will force the government into action on the tax front," one Spanish economist said. "It is one reason why we will get a tighter 1990 budget."

Spain's interest rates have also been kept artificially high by controls on capital flows into the country. If these vanished, capital might flow into Spain but interest rates would fall.

"You can always find parallels but to draw lessons over the use of exchange rate policy in Spain and to draw implications for the UK is a flawed exercise," said Jaime de Pinies, chief economist at the Madrid office of Chase Manhattan.

Spain's rapidly growing current deficit, forecast to reach \$11 billion by the end of the year, could also eventually trigger a change in sentiment towards the peseta.

"EMS may help support the peseta if there is a change in sentiment and the market reverses. There is a downside limit but it is quite a long way," a London-based economist said.

Sime Darby signs accord with KIO

Joint venture planned

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 6, (KUNA): Sime Darby, Malaysia's major conglomerate with Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) equity has signed an agreement in principle to form a joint venture in insurance broking with a Thai company to further explore investment opportunities in Malaysia and Thailand.

The joint venture will be undertaken through its subsidiary Sime Darby Hogg Robinson Ltd, with Saha Union Corp taking a majority stake.

According to Sime Darby's latest newsletter, its chairman Ismail Mohamed Ali who announced the project in Bangkok recently had also discussed the possibility of investing in packaging in Thailand.

A plan to set up a Sime Darby office in Bangkok had also been discussed by the board.

The report quoted Saha Union chairman Anand Panyarachun as saying his company might also consider investing in the manufacture of buttons and zippers in Malaysia under a joint venture with Sime Darby.

In another development, said the report, Sime Darby footwear had been renamed Aliph Footwear to reflect Dunlop Malaysia Industries' ownership and its strong commitment to the Aliph business.

The Aliph Footwear Factory — a major shoe makers in Malaysia — manufactures a wide range of sports, casual and

school shoes for the local and export markets trademark.

Aliph shoes are currently exported to the US, United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, the report added.

Malaysia and Thailand have agreed in principle to the establishment of a joint authority to explore and exploit oil and gas reserves in their overlapping territorial waters.

To be named the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Authority (MTJA), it was expected to be set up by the end of the year.

The agreement was reached at a two-hour meeting between the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Thai counterpart General Chai-Chai Choonhavan here.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting yesterday, the Malaysian Foreign Minister Deputy Secretary-General Abdul Majid Mohamad said the terms of the agreement on joint development are being worked out by officials from both countries.

The MTJA will oversee the exploration and exploitation of natural and non-living resources in the disputed joint development area (JDA) off the Malaysian east-coast state of Kelantan.

Operations in the JDA, expected to begin once the MTJA was set up, would be carried out by the Malaysian National Oil Cor-

poration (Petronas) and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT).

Majid said JDA had been identified as one of the possible areas for co-operation during the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Commission meeting in Bangkok in May this year.

He said the idea to develop the overlapping waters between the two neighbouring countries was first mooted 10 years ago.

He added the MTJA would be one of the first such incidences world-wide where disputed territories were jointly developed for the mutual benefit of the disputing countries.

Other matters discussed between the Malaysian and Thai leaders included export of Malaysian cement to Thailand and the participation of Malaysian officers in a feasibility study for the construction of a dam in southern Thailand.

In another development, China has agreed to give priority to Malaysian traders in obtaining agency rights to operate direct trade with it. Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said today.

She said with such rights, Malaysian traders need not have to go through third countries like Singapore and Thailand in conducting trade with China.

Rafidah said the agreement was reached during her visit with a Malaysian trade delegation to China recently.

Quick action needed to cut cost

Tunisia backs economic liberalisation

TUNIS, Aug 6, (Reuters): Tunisia's Central Bank, in its annual report to President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, backed economic liberalisation and urged quick action to reduce the cost of subsidies on basic foodstuffs.

Central Bank Governor Ismail Khelil, Ben Ali's main economic adviser, said the government would have to remove more price controls, encourage foreign investment and sell non-strategic public sector companies to the private sector.

"Under present circumstances, the strategy based on opening up to the outside world is the only way forward," he said in his introduction to the report, published today.

Khelil, who has a reputation as the main force behind liberalisation, said urgent priorities were to create more jobs, curb inflation and cut the budget deficit by restricting food subsidies to those who need them.

Food subsidies are a sensitive subject in Tunisia, where 89 people were killed in 1984 in riots against higher bread prices.

The government, which spends a quarter of its current budget on bread, wheat, sugar and cooking oil, has recently been dropping hints that it is about to tackle the problem seriously.

"Subsidies must be suitably targeted towards the social group which is economically weak," Khelil said.

"Any delay in carrying out this process, for whatever reason, will only worsen the imbalance and make the inevitable adjustment more painful."

Tunisia has already taken some steps towards liberalisation, especially in reducing customs duties on raw materials and capital goods, but two years of drought have held up the process by limiting the government's margin of manoeuvre.

Khelil said that on price controls for industrial products for example, "the process of liberalisation must go ahead with greater speed to reach progressively all products."

On privatisation, he was more cautious, saying it should proceed "at the necessary speed and in line with a timetable known to all the parties concerned."

"Bringing in the private sector to run public enterprises is not an easy matter. Its success depends mainly on careful treatment of surplus manpower," he added.

Privatisation should not add to unemployment, which remained static at around 15 per cent of the workforce in 1988, he said.

The government has been promising to speed up privatisation for the past two years but the drought, by increasing rural unemployment, has held up the process.

The report warned that domestic inflation could hit the competitiveness of Tunisian exports so, unless productivity kept pace, the bank would have to devalue the dinar.

Khelil has already supervised a gradual devaluation of the dinar to the current level of about \$1.06. Two years ago it was worth \$1.20.

Argentina's economic crash was years in the making

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug 6, (AP):

In a country where a steak and a bottle of wine used to be within easy reach for most people, thousands now eat at soup kitchens or go hungry. Despite abundant natural resources, unemployment and poverty are soaring.

Middle-class Argentines, among the most affluent in Latin America at one time, are so strapped now that they are selling off heirlooms that had been in their families since the days when beef and grain made Argentina one of the world's wealthiest nations.

"This country had no limit," said analyst Enrique Zuleta, looking back on those prosperous times. "This was the only country where poor people were fat."

Where did Argentina go wrong?

The most widely accepted explanation is the collapse of the state-dominated economic system laid down by Juan D. Peron in late 1940s, when Argentina's treasury was filled with gold.

Now any rescue is in the hands of his successors in the Peronist movement.

"The problem is very clear to us," says Sen Carlos Teney of the governing Peronist Party, which is trying to sell companies it nationalised in the early days of Peron. "The state is very weak, geriatric. The productive apparatus is totally wasted."

Warning lights already were blinking when middle-class Argentines flew to beaches in Brazil for summer vacations last January and February. The fiscal deficit was soaring, the austral currency was tremendously overvalued, foreign currency reserves were running low.

But such things have happened often in recent years and the significance was dismissed. What was in store for Argentines turned out to be even worse than the depression of the 1930s.

When the Central Bank stopped selling US dollars on Feb 6, Argentines frantically bid up

the price at exchange houses. In six months, the austral lost 97 per cent of its value. Inflation doubled, then doubled again. In July it was running at a monthly rate of at least 200 per cent.

Real wages contracted by half. Unemployment unofficially stands at a record 14 per cent. An estimated one-fourth of the 31 million people lives in poverty; 820,000 people in Buenos Aires province alone eat at least one meal a day at some 1,500 soup kitchens that have opened, according to Gov. Antonio Cafiero.

In late May, looting of food stores nationwide prompted the government, then headed by President Raul Alfonsin, to declare a state of siege and suspended civil liberties for one month. While there have been no major clashes with police since, sackings and arrests have continued.

Few Argentines had seen anything like this before.

BUSINESS

Cristiani faces uphill battle

SAN SALVADOR, Aug. 6. (Reuters): El Salvador's new rightist government is attacking the country's staggering economic problems in a battle foreign experts see as critical in shaping the outcome of a nine-year-old civil war.

"The war will not be won militarily," a senior US military adviser said recently. "The solution is in the economic aspect."

In attempting to cure the economy, and perhaps tip the balance in the civil war in his favour, President Alfredo Cristiani appears to be chasing a goal about as elusive as defeating El Salvador's tenacious left-wing insurgency.

Cristiani took office on June 1 and soon discovered the country's Central Bank was \$160 million in debt and without foreign reserves.

El Salvador's exports fell to \$609 million in 1988 from 1.1 billion in 1979 before the outbreak of the war. The Central Bank recently put the country's trade deficit at \$500 million.

The government is dependent on foreign aid, especially to reduce the gap in its balance of payments and pay for public works. In 1988 El Salvador received about \$350 million in direct foreign assistance, 314 million from the United States.

The aid accounted for about seven per cent of the country's GDP of \$4.8 billion.

Added to the bleak panorama is the recent nosedive in the international price of coffee, El Salvador's main export, which brought in \$358 million in 1988, representing 59 per cent of the country's export income.

The civil war has also ravaged the country's economy. Guerrilla economic sabotage alone is estimated to have caused \$1.7 billion in damages since 1979.

Cristiani, a 42-year-old millionaire coffee grower, recently outlined his government's market-oriented economic plan aimed at reducing inflation and spurring exports, while creating 20,000 jobs a month during non-harvest months.

He said the government would eliminate price controls for 230 non-basic goods and for all but lowest income transport. The plan also includes increases in interest rates and higher electricity charges, except for the poorest users, industry and commerce.

"Let supply and demand regulate prices," he said in a nationally televised speech, saying the moves will promote output while allowing the government to shore up its finances.

But in El Salvador, a country of 5.2 million where nearly half the workforce is underemployed, not everyone is convinced the Cristiani government has the time or political mileage.

The question is will the political situation and the political opposition allow them to do the things they're trying to do?" said one Western diplomat.

Exchange rates

Indian rupee	18.010
Sri Lankan rupee	8.400
Pakistani rupee	14.210
Bangladesh taka	9.120
US dollar	29685
Pound sterling	47750
Deutsche mark	15590
UAE dirham	08088
Japanese yen	002132

Fundamentals of HK-China economic ties unchanged

Economy likely to achieve 5pc growth rate

IN spite of the sad episode in Beijing recently, the prospect of the China market need not be written off, according to Jack So, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The fundamentals of the economic relationship between China and Hong Kong have not changed and manufacturing in the Pearl River Delta and cross-border trade has been carried out virtually undisturbed by the events in northern China, he said.

The fact that the current Chinese leaders lost no time in reaffirming to the world China's open-door policy along with their eagerness to re-invite foreign investment, shows how much they value economic ties with the West, he said.

Speaking at a Business Orientation Programme luncheon by the American Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong, So said that the worst possible option is to impose economic sanctions, which would only serve to drive China, once again, into isolation.

While it is understandable that individuals may take steps to pursue the "insurance passport", it must not be interpreted as the ultimate "abandonment" of Hong Kong.

"So long as we keep business going, we have a good chance of keeping our paradise here and not finding it on some remote island."

"In times past, Hong Kong has reacted to adversity with renewed vigour and determination, and succeeded every time in coming out stronger in the end," he added.

He stressed the fact remains that China needs Hong Kong, and the world needs Hong Kong. "Our job now is to continue Hong Kong's economic success."

As for Hong Kong's economic future development, So said that regionalism, slower growth and the retreat of planned economy in socialist communities will be the new changes demanding new approaches from Hong Kong in 1990s.

He believed that Hong Kong's priority lies in a regional strategy for Asia, based on openness and co-operation. Trading with Asian economies now accounts for 62 per cent of the territory's total trade and has potential for further expansion as trade liberalisation begins to spread in the region.

So estimated Hong Kong economy will probably achieve a 5 per cent growth rate this year, after the full impact of June 4 has worked through the system. Given the full capacity of recent years, virtual unemployment and creeping inflation, this slowdown is not surprising, he said.

While predicting a further brake on the economy next year, as a result of domestic constraints, a slowdown of growth in Hong Kong's major markets and recent events in China. So said the pattern is partially offset by the encouraging growth of exports to Asia (27 per cent from January to May) and the re-export trade.

He said that in line with these economic developments, the HKTD has set a priority on the penetration of new markets. At this moment South Korea, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, the Middle East and East Europe are being studied closely.

According to So, Hong Kong businessmen also have to look at possibilities in the markets of Russia and Eastern Europe, in view of "the retreat of the planned economy" and the introduction of a free market system.

Stocks and bonds slip

Economy created 169,000 jobs in July

Fed eases fears of American recession

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6. (Reuters): The Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank, may have hauled the American economy back from the brink of a recession which loomed after years of sustained growth.

After reining in inflation earlier this year before it got out of control, the Fed appears to have relaxed its grip on credit just in time, according to a number of economists.

Figures released last week on employment and on home, car and

department store sales suggest the economy is already responding to a decline in interest rates in June and July.

"What the data are telling us is that the slowdown in growth has pretty much bottomed out," Robert Chandra, chief economist of Lloyds Bank PLC in New York, said. "It's not a recession scenario."

Bush administration officials still worry privately that Fed chairman Alan Greenspan may have kept monetary policy too tight for too long in his fight to

curb inflation, but in public they are happy with the economy.

"We believe the economy is growing on a modest, sustainable path that will lead to continued job creation consistent with controlling and reducing inflation," chief White House economist Michael Boskin said.

Whether the growth will be enough to satisfy the administration, which needs a vigorous economy to produce ample tax revenues, is another matter.

Many Wall Street economists, like the

Fed, expect a growth rate of about 1.5 per cent in the next few quarters, while the White House has forecast 2.7 per cent growth this year and 2.6 per cent in 1990.

"The way matters are evolving, it's as though the Fed wrote the script," said Norman Robertson, chief economist of Pittsburgh's Mellon Bank. "It's a remarkable tribute to Alan Greenspan."

Thoughts of recession, spurred by recent disappointing economic indicators, all but vanished with Friday's strong employment report for July.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (UPI): The jobless rate eased in July, 46 traders at two Chicago commodities exchanges were indicted for alleged illegal practices and six were convicted in the first racketeering trial of securities executives.

The Labour Department said Friday the nation's jobless rate eased 0.1 percentage point in July to 5.2 per cent, encouraged by job opportunities in service industries.

The economy created 169,000 jobs last month, more than the 160,000-job rise expected by many economists. The government also significantly revised upward its estimate of June job growth from a modest 180,000 to a healthy 230,000.

Although the revision could help alleviate concerns that a recession is imminent, analysts said stocks and bonds slipped as investors became worried that the unemployment news would temporarily halt the recent easing in interest rates.

Recent data pointing to a slowdown in economic growth has prompted the Federal Reserve Board to let the Fed funds rate ease to about 9 per cent, encouraging the nation's major banks to lower their prime interest rates.

Citibank, the nation's largest bank, cut its prime Monday to 10.5 per cent from 11 per cent. Other banks followed suit. The move came three weeks after Chase Manhattan lowered its prime on July 10.

The prime is the basis rate used by banks to calculate interest on a variety of loans, including those to consumers and small businesses.

A 2 1/2-year investigation of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade — the world's two largest commodities exchanges — culminated Wednesday in the indictment of 46 traders on 1,500 counts ranging from racketeering to lying to federal agents.

As many as 20 FBI agents went under cover for the probe.

The defendants are accused of bilking hundreds of clients out of millions of dollars, but prosecutors refuse to disclose the amount of money involved.

The 18 Chicago traders charged with racketeering or racketeering conspiracy face up to 20 years in jail and fines of up to \$250,000.

Earlier in the week, five former executives of Princeton/Newport partners and a former junk bond trader with Drexel Burn-

ham Lambert Inc. were convicted in the first use of the federal racketeering law against securities executives.

The six were charged with conspiring to create bogus tax losses through rigged trades. Prosecutors said Princeton/Newport sold securities at a loss and then, under a prior arrangement, bought them back at the same or slightly higher prices in a practice known as stock parking.

Under terms of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations act, or RICO, defendants can be required to forfeit their ill-gotten gains if convicted. In Washington, the Securities

and Exchange Commission said Taiwanese businessman Fred C. Lee surrendered \$25.15 million Wednesday to settle an insider trading case involving Stephen Sui-Kuan Wang Jr.

In June, the SEC accused Lee and Wang, a former Morgan Stanley analyst, of hatching a scheme involving 25 publicly traded securities.

Wang, 24, pleaded guilty to wire, mail and securities fraud in the Lee case and another plot involving an unnamed individual. He surrendered more than \$127,000 to settle civil charges and is serving a three-year prison term.

In New York, Avon Products Inc. Thursday rebuffed a \$3 billion takeover proposal from Minneapolis investor Irwin Jacobs, a major shareholder in the door-to-door cosmetics company.

Earlier this year, Avon rejected a \$2.1 billion takeover offer from Amway and a buyout offer from Dallas-based Mary Kay Cosmetics Inc.

Nebraska billionaire Warren E. Buffet, Coca-Cola Co.'s second-largest shareholder, filed a SEC disclosure seeking the go-ahead to increase his stake in the beverage company from 6.75 per cent to as much as 15 per cent.

Buffet, 58, made his fortune buying stock he believed was undervalued, concentrating mostly on newspapers. Coke, which has its headquarters in Atlanta, said it was delighted with Buffet's plans.

In Miami, the president of the machinists union at Eastern Airlines announced plans Thursday to raise \$50 million from striking employees and small investors to promote a buyout of the strikebound airline.

Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp. of Houston, insists the airline is not for sale. Management says it intends instead to rebuild Eastern as a

smaller airline. Earlier this week, Eastern expanded its daily departures to 350 from 225, and further expansion is planned.

In other economic news, July sales for the nation's major retailers were helped by early back-to-school promotions, but analysts said Thursday the results were not a positive sign for the fall season.

Meanwhile, US carmakers posted a 0.7 per cent rise in July sales of domestically made cars and light trucks, but analysts warned the industry will not be able to sustain the relatively strong sales levels through the rest of 1989.

Philippines to seek new loans

Foreign debt totals \$28b

MANILA, Aug. 6. (Reuters): The Philippines will ask for new loans and debt relief to help bridge a \$1.7-billion financing gap when it opens debt talks with foreign banks in New York on Tuesday, government officials and foreign bankers said.

Foreign economic experts said Manila would probably be the next country to benefit from a US-sponsored plan to shrink Third World debt. Mexico became the first when it signed an agreement with its commercial banks on July 23.

Manila's commercial creditors do not want to give new money or forgive debt, but the experts said the banks would probably agree to a bit of both to show support for Philippine economic reforms and because Washington is committed to the debt plan.

"The Philippines will get new money and some debt reduction, but it will be very different in design" from the Mexico accord, said a Western economic expert close to the talks.

The Philippines' foreign debt totals \$28 billion, including 13 billion owed to commercial creditors.

The head negotiator, Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez, says only \$7 billion in medium- and long-term loans from banks would be eligible for any debt reduction scheme.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus says he expects the US treasury to exert influence on the banks to ensure the debt talks succeed.

"It is to the interest of the US to have its policy succeed so that other experiments, other applications may also have a good start with the positive example of Mexico and, hopefully, the Philippines," he



Brady

told reporters on Friday.

The plan proposed last March by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady recognises that the banks' past practice of piling debt on top of existing debt fails to resolve and often exacerbates the Third World economic woes.

Washington will probably be unwilling to apply as much pressure on behalf of the Philippines as it did for Mexico, whose economy has a far more direct impact on the United States.

Manila, the world's fourth biggest debtor, has some important cards to play in New York.

Other big debtors like Brazil and Argentina are not yet prepared to present comprehensive proposals to creditors and the government of President Corason Aquino has received a seal of good housekeeping this year from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

It has also managed for the first time since the early 1980s to reach its own tax collection target, a source of long-standing concern for the IMF and major

donor countries.

Western financial experts say the IMF has urged Manila to impose higher taxes next year to boost revenues, but Aquino, afraid of public reaction, said he would try to avoid that by improving existing tax collection.

The World Bank said Manila had set an extremely ambitious target and gained fiscal credibility by exceeding it so far.

In the first half of the year, the government collected 39.3 billion pesos (\$1.87 billion) in income, excise and value-added taxes, surpassing its target by 1.7 per cent and marking a 24.6 per cent increase over collection in the corresponding period of last year. Bureau of Internal Revenue figures showed.

"I think the developments are very encouraging because the Philippines' efforts on the fiscal side are starting to pay off," Rolando Arrivilla, the local World Bank representative, told Reuters.

Economic analysts say the Philippine tax collection system is still inefficient by international standards, but that the improvement showed Manila's commitment to increasing revenue.

The banks are expected to ask Manila how it will use \$3.5 billion in aid pledged by donor countries and agencies.

Philippine negotiators had earlier asked the banks for \$1.7 billion in new loans to bridge a financing gap until the end of 1990. Fernandez said things had happened since then that required the figure be changed, but he gave no details.

"We will not seek more money than we need. (We) do not intend to overfinance the Philippines," he said.

Dinar firms against dollar

AMMAN, August 6. (Reuters): The dinar firmed against the dollar on the free market today after the Central Bank began pumping in \$25 million to help stabilise the Jordanian currency, dealers said.

They said the dinar was trading around 818 fils to the dollar, up from yesterday's widely quoted rates of 880 fils, after the Central Bank began intervening.

The Central Bank fixed the official rate at 883 fils, unchanged from Saturday.

A Central Bank official said today the bank began selling some of the \$16.5 million it had allocated for banks at 815 fils. It has told banks to sell the dollars to their clients at no more than 820 fils.

The official said the Central Bank also began selling another \$10 million to banks who have been told to sell them at the official exchange rate to finance imports of subsidised food stuffs, some medicines and fees of Jordanians studying abroad.

"We began receiving sizable amounts from the Central Bank which we are to sell at no more than 820 fils to cover private sector imports and other non-essential. At the same time, we will sell dollars at the official rate for the other key commodities," a dealer said.

"This move will definitely help stabilise the dinar on the free and official market at rates we think are reasonable," the Central Bank official said.

"We will continue our intervention every time we feel it is needed," he added.

Dealers said the move, an apparent effort to keep the dinar in a range of 815/820 fils, would succeed so long as the Central Bank continued its involvement.

Strikes could flare again

MOSCOW, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Major coal strikes which spread from Siberia across the country last month could flare again because managers are dawdling in carrying out promises over pay and conditions, a local Communist Party official said today.

In an interview published in the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, A. Melnikov, Communist Party chief of the Kemerovo region, said the coal ministry was clinging to old authoritarian methods and warned that tension among workers was growing.

Melnikov's remarks underlined the fragile nature of the industrial peace declared in the aftermath of last month's strike, which involved hundreds of thousands of workers as it spread from the Siberian Kuzbass.

Tass news agency said meanwhile that miners in the pits of Vorkuta, high in the Arctic circle, returned to work today after a 24-hour stoppage prompted by local managers' failure to give them written guarantees on pay and conditions.

"Has (coal minister) Mikhail Shchadov learned nothing from the July events?" Melnikov said. "The time is coming for leaders who are promoted by working collectives, are elected by them, who have their trust and are accountable to them."

Melnikov said work in the Kuzbass, the country's second largest coal producing area, had not yet fully returned to normal. Workers were becoming restless at the slowness of management and local officials to respond to their demands.

"The situation now is such that strikes of some form or other are not excluded," he said. Management must fully honour a wide-ranging deal which brought miners back to work.

Miners had eventually agreed to return to work after they were granted a 35-point package which Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said would cut the floundering economy a crippling two billion roubles (\$3.2 billion).

However, miners' leaders also made clear at the time that they had suspended rather than called off their action. They warned they would down tools again if officials failed to honour pledges on pay, conditions and host of other local issues.

On Thursday, miners at 17 pits in the Kuzbass region stopped work for two hours on a reservoir and hydro-electric scheme along the Tomi river, as they had promised.

The Kemerovo miners fear that upstream mines and enterprises have polluted the water.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 06/08/1990

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Rashidah	Gh & Q	4347815
3	Ibn Alnafies	UASC	4843150
4	Marulic	Algh Barwil	4842988
6	Arafat	KSA	4843150
10	Cosmobil Ace	A. Marafie	4848665
13	Everon Ward	Salmiah	4745471
14	New Topaz	SMS	4745471
15	Canterbury Star	Al Bader	2433537
17	Zigana	ISA	2441860
18	Amiral S. Altincan	Al Sawan	4746018
19	Mykonos	ISA	4843150

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

6	Sparkle Sun	Harvest	M.A. Bahar	2433881
6	Sally		Algh Barwil	4842988
9	Seacash		Algh Barwil	4843988
14	Seaharmony		Algh Barwil	4843988

VESSELS AT SHUAIBA ANCHORAGE

Arrvd	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
	Dhonakulhi	RSMS	2423642

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
6/8	Wilfine Orient	UASC	4843150

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Golden Harvest	M.A. Bahar	2433881
6	Sally	Algh Barwil	4842988
9	Oceanus	Algh Barwil	4843988
14	Seaharmony	Algh Barwil	4843988

VESSELS AT SHUAIBA ANCHORAGE

Arrvd	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
	Dhonakulhi	RMS	2423642

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
6/8	Willine Orient	UASC	4843150

Compiled by: Alghanim Barwil Shipping Co. WLL, Kuwait, Tel: 4842988/4843988 ext. 3628/3646 Fax No. 4845712, Tlx 22084 Barwil KT.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	50000	1
GULF BANK	0.355	0.355	0.355	0.355	50000	2
COMMERCIAL BK	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	30000	3
ANLI BANK	0.295					
B.K.M.E	0.325					
K.R.E.B.	0.250					
BURGAN BANK	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	280000	5
K.F. HOUSE	0.475	0.470	0.470	0.470	260000	7

INVESTMENT SECTOR

KVT INV. CO.	0.099					
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210					
K.I.I.C.	0.064					
COM. FACILITIES	0.430					
ASHIAN INV.	0.000					
I.F.A.	0.095					
NATIONAL INV.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	120000	2
KVT PROJECTS	0.080					

INSURANCE SECTOR

KVT INSURANCE	0.600					
GULF INSURANCE	0.320					
ASHIAN INS. CO.	0.480					
WARRA INS. CO.	0.320					

REAL ESTATE SECTOR

INV. PEARL KVT	0.087	0.089	0.089	0.089	40000	1
KVT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.132					
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.090					
WAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.180					
SALHIA R.E.	0.080					
KVT R.E.I. CO.	0.000					

INDUSTRY SECTOR

NAT IND. CO.	0.49
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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 9.15 Sabah Al Khir News and variety
 9.30 Iftah Ya Simsim: Children's cultural programme
 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
 10.15 Mahlan Ayoha Al Omir: Arabic serial (Part 3)
 11.00 Sabah Al Khir News and variety
 11.20 'Ezajj: Local serial (part 12), starring Ghanem Al Saleh, Zainab Al Dhahi, Maryam Al Ghabban and Dawood Hussain
 12.00 Sabah Al Khir News and variety
 12.35 Cultural film
 1.00 News summary
 1.05 The World Today via Satellite
 1.30 Sport Bitty: cartoon serial
 2.15 Al Mehruath Wa Elboor: Arabic serial (Part 2)
 3.00 Mawqif Wa Khotab: cultural programme
 3.30 Billers: cartoon serial
 4.00 Meerath Al Seneen: historical serial (Part 7), starring Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, Nadeen, Mohammed Al Qabbani
 5.45 Children and summer: local programme, prepared by Samya Mohammed
 6.30 Night: Chemists, airlines and official announcements
 7.00 The World of Tomorrow: cultural programme
 7.30 Variety
 7.45 Holy Quran and Science: prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
 8.30 Around the World: local cultural programme
 9.00 News in Arabic
 9.30 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes



Dawood Hussain in 'Ezajj', local Arabic serial on KTV 1 at 11.20 today.

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
 6.30 Scheme of Things: the development of paper industry, new energy sources and other topics
 7.00 Roving Report: a weekly report of regional and world news
 7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles makes future plans
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 Paradise: 'A House Divided.' Paradise is

attacked by armed robbers. Who are they?
 9.30 227: 'The Butler Did It.' Mary and Rose win the services of a butler in a church raffle. Soon, their dream of a pampered life is shattered by the pain-in-the-neck hired help. Starring: Jackie
 10.00 Tales of the Unexpected: 'What Have You Been Up To Lately.' Two friends meet after 25 years and as they discuss who should have married the woman, an announcement is made on the radio.
 10.30 Jack and Mike: 'High Anxiety.' Mike decides to adopt vagrants and finds himself involved with drug traffickers. Starring: Shelly Hawk and Tom Mason
 11.45 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran; Closedown

CINEMA

Al Andalus
 Red Scorpion
 Al Salmiya
 Revenge of the Nerds II
 Al Hamra
 Ultimate Force
 Drive-In
 Arabic film
 Al Firdous
 Ustaad
 Starring: Vinod Khanna, Jaya Prada
 Fahasheel Open-air
 Aas Paas
 Al Fahasheel
 Incredible Kung Fu Mission
 Al Jahra
 Three the Hard Way
 Granada
 Berji the Hunted
 Al Sulaibikhat
 Shaolin Magnificent
 Al Jleeb
 Bat Boy
 Ahmadi Drive-in
 Batteries Included

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
 Al Watan Pharmacy
 Fahd Al Salem Street,
 Jawharat Al Khaleej Building
 Al Amal Pharmacy
 Mubarak Al Kabere Street,
 opp. to Fabrics market
 Hawalli and Nagra
 Al Kuwait Pharmacy
 Nagra, Qutayba Street,
 Property of Naser Al Saqobi
 Salmiya and Rumathiya
 Sahara Pharmacy
 Salem Al Mubarak Street,
 Property of Fahad Al Zebin
 Fahasheel and Ahmadi
 Sadaf Pharmacy
 Fahasheel, Makkah Street,
 Property of Faisal Al Daboo
 Jleeb Al Shuyukh
 Al Noman Pharmacy
 Opp. to Jleeb School
 Jahra
 Al Zahra Pharmacy
 The new commercial market

Air India service to Baghdad

AIR INDIA will commence its operations to Baghdad, Iraq, with a weekly Airbus A310 service from Aug 14.
 The flight will operate Bombay-Delhi-Kuwait-Bombay-Delhi-Bombay. The outbound flight (AI891) will leave Bombay on Mondays at 0830 hours (local time) and reach Delhi at 1020 hours. It will depart from Delhi at 1130 hours and arrive in Kuwait at 1330 hours. The flight will leave Kuwait at 1445 hours the same day and arrive in Baghdad at 1720 hours. All in local time.

The return service (AI890) will operate directly from Baghdad to Delhi leaving Baghdad at 1845 hours on Mondays and arriving in Delhi at 0115 on Tuesdays. The flight will depart from Delhi at 0215 hours and reach Bombay at 0410 hours.

Air India commenced operations to Baghdad in 1976 with 707 aircraft. From 1982 to 1986 a 747 service was introduced on this route.

The resumption of Air India's operations to Baghdad will open up new avenues for economic and cultural co-operation between Iraq and India and further strengthen the friendly ties between the people of the two countries.

August," he added.

The intensive six-week training course at Heathrow included first aid and safety procedures in addition to familiarisation with aircraft equipment and cabin service procedures. All crew are trained to operate both Boeing 747s and TriStars.



The 227 cast on KTV 2 at 9.30 pm today.

New Arab cabin crew go into action

BRITISH Airways has welcomed back to the region the first group of new Arab cabin crew following a 'wings' ceremony in London at the successful completion of their training programme.

The thirty Arab nationals, recruited from more than 1,000 applicants from throughout the region, are being based at

the airline's new cabin crew centres in Bahrain and Cairo. They will operate as additional members of the cabin crew on British Airways flights between the Middle East and Britain, and will be responsible for looking after the special needs of all Arab passengers during the flight.

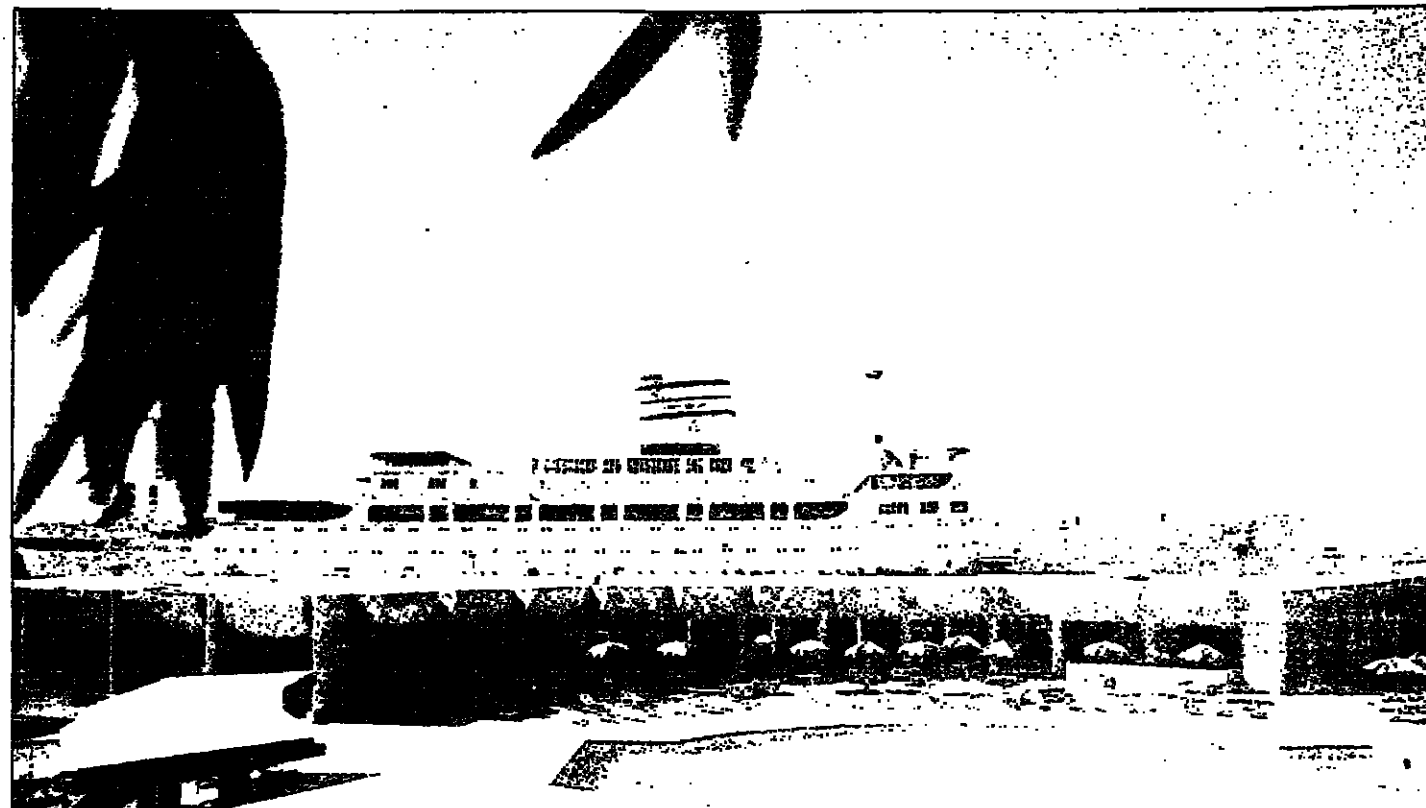
"Our new cabin crew are an

essential element in British Airways' programme of product enhancement for our Arab passengers," said Adel Ali, British Airways manager, Bahrain.

"This first group are to be congratulated on the high standards they achieved during training and we are looking forward to them being joined by another set of recruits in



British Airways Bahrain Manager, Adel Ali (back row, 5th from left) joins some of British Airways' new Arab cabin crew at their 'wings' ceremony in London.



Ramada's sea food festival

Every evening at the Ramada's El-Bandar Coffee Shop, enjoy the sumptuous sea food buffet from 7 pm until midnight, where you can taste the biggest selection of Ramada's jumbo shrimps, fresh mixed fish, Atlantic main lobsters and today's fisherman's catch in any way you like to make your mouth water.

Little Mr and Miss Philippines rehearsal

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) held their second rehearsal on Friday at Keifan Gym for all the candidates for the Little Mr and Miss Philippines, Kuwait, for 1989. All the children were interviewed and given their time for their talent portion. Final date for the contest will be on August 25 at 3.00 pm at Showbiz Pizza Place, Salmiya.

Hawaiian Dance

Secretary Rosale Austria, the acting chairman of the project taught all the candidates for Little Miss Philippines a Hawaiian dance to be performed during the contest. All the candidates showed their prowess to the delight of their parents.

The Little Mr and Miss titles will receive \$100.00 cash each from the City International Exchange Co., W.L.L. plus trophies. Runners-up for the contest like Mr and Miss Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will also be given trophies donated by Marina Laygo and Atty. Mohd Al Awadi. Special prizes for Little Mr and Miss Photogenic, talent, and friendship, as well as the best gown and attire will be awarded.

All candidates will receive gift certificates from Pizza Italia.

Pacman

The children will participate in a Pacman contest and the winners will receive valuable prizes from Adawiah Universal Electronics Co.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum

OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Taraq Rajab Museum

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sudu House

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

Kalpak exhibition

SEPT 15: Women's wing of Kerala Art and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) will hold an exhibition of arts and handicrafts at the Indian embassy hall from 3 pm to 8 pm. Those interested to show their own creation, please contact on telephone Nos: 5632708/4316737/5626620.

Konkani drama

AUG 11: A Konkani drama entitled "Batli Ani Bazaar" directed by Pascual Rodriguez will be held at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites at 10 am and 4 pm. Gate passes are available at Raja Stores and Alex Martins Shop.

Independents ball

AUGUST 17: At the Mesilla Beach Hotel from 8.30 pm onwards. Organised by



Little Mr and Miss Philippines with organisers

Jun Mercado is the co-chairman of the said project and AVP Lulu Alejo was the emcee for the day.

The last rehearsal will be held on August 11 at Keifan Gym at 3.30 pm. For particulars, please contact Rosale Austria, Jun Mercado on telephone number 4899418 and Sarah Macarimbang on telephone 4843447.

Little Mr

The lists of the candidates who will vie for the coveted title of Little Mr and Miss Philippines, Kuwait are as follows:

Richard Norman H. Mercado, Rhaiston Anthony Dagdag, Philip T. Bharawaj, Ruel T. Austria, Nasser Al Nazer, Andrewpol C. Rellora, Ahmad Tariq Sairat, Salam Tariq Sairat, Richard Macken.

Little Miss

Katrina B. Nacario, Michelle S. Acosta, Maria Trinia Asuncion, Derrde Macken, Tara Macken, Marjan Matin, Pamela Rose Rojo, Michelle Santos, Shieilah Mehrielle Santos, Maria Lourdes S. Inserto, Jessica S. Unico, Gilyn Grace N. de Vera, Melanie N. de Vera.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.44 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.29 pm
Maghreb	6.35
Isha	8.00

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait Plaza

TEMPTING lunch and dinner. A wide variety of all sorts of delicious, home-made and sumptuous dishes with real Lebanese mezzeh and delights of Arabic and French sweets plus fruits of the season.

A unique opportunity to try the dish you like most. It is indeed special lunch or dinner to suit every body's taste, for only KD2.95.

Also at Al Dallah coffeeshop the breakfast with a difference for KD0.95. American, Continental and Arabic breakfast. Enjoy our variety of food daily with Plaza special touch from 6.00 am till 11.00 am.

Italian dinner: Let us take you to heart of Rome while you are in the heart of Kuwait a special ambience with exotic delicious and Italian dishes prepared before you.

Delights of Arabic ice-cream and jumbo sandwiches at Loul-wah corner "Le Cafe de Paris" with traditional Arabic music played by the famous oud player Fawzi Jamal. Unique surroundings on the edge of Al Muthanna shopping centre. Open all day long.

At the Kuwait International LA PALMA: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Ext 8166.

Fallaka: Rooftop restaurant overlooking Kuwait's picturesque coastline. Offers international cuisine and elegant surroundings. Live entertainment during dinner. Closed on Friday. Ext 8012.

Garden Pool: Relax and enjoy our poolside barbecue event every Friday afternoon.

La Patisserie: Offers an extensive selection of pastries, oven fresh bread, savouries, exotic juices and ice creams. Also serves Continental breakfast. Pianist in the evenings.

variety social entertainment under 555 sponsorship. For reservations contact tel. (res) 5331940 or 2413706 pm only.

KALPAK's exhibition

SEPT 15: Women's wing of Kerala Art & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (KALPAK) will hold an exhibition of Indian Arts & Handicrafts at the Indian Embassy Hall from 3 pm to 8 pm.

Fiesta Filipiniana

UNDER the auspices of the Philippine embassy here in Kuwait, the Filipino Cultural Club, under the competent leadership of Buddy Patungan, proudly announces to its clamouring fans the comeback of "Fiesta Filipiniana '89" with the original cast at its original venue - where else, but at the spacious elegantly-lit Al-Jahra Ballroom of the Meridien Hotel.

Participants are kindly requested to submit their Civil ID Card photocopies to Tolis Matig-A, the club's director on social and cultural affairs. Rehearsals commence on Friday, Aug 11, 1989. There will be a general meeting also for all his working committee on this said date.

For more particulars, contact Marie - 4317256, Tolis - 2417766. For ticket reservations, contact: Florence - 2436121 or 2439451.

FILMS

At the British Council

ANGEL, 6.30 pm on Saturday, Aug 12 and Sunday Aug 13, having been witness to the bombing of a dance hall and the killing of innocent people, Danny begins his personal quest for vengeance. This tough thriller was written and directed by Neil Jordan. No entrance fee, but you are advised to reserve seats. 2515512; 2533204/2533227.

Farmers use rockets in battle

Swiss hailbusters

By Michael Shields

WHEN storm clouds come boiling over Lake Zurich towards Ernst Spoehel's cornfields, the Swiss farmer knows just how to prevent a vicious hailstorm from devastating his crops.

His sense of imminent danger honed by 20 years of experience, Spoehel rushes to his barn, loads a small plastic rocket with a packet of silver iodide, and fires it 2,000 metres (yards) into the clouds.

"You can see the front coming, and when you have the feeling that danger is near, you start to shoot," he explains.

Spoehel and hundreds of other farmers are convinced they immunise the clouds against hailstorms by peppering the skies with their rockets.

Scientists and insurers are more sceptical.

Both sides agree hailstones form when masses of cool and warm air collide, causing small droplets of moisture in the air to condense around particles of dust and freeze. Strong winds can suck the particles as high as eight km (five miles), growing as they rise until they are so heavy they fall as hailstones.

In theory, at least, the exploding silver iodide packets cause the moisture to crystallise into a countless but tiny bits of ice that melt into harmless raindrops as they fall.

Farmers around the world live in fear of hailstones that can pound their crops into the earth. "A heavy storm can produce stones as big as an egg," notes Hans Scharpf, spokesman for the Swiss Hail Insurers Association.

Hailstorms are especially prevalent around mountain ranges like the Alps, which block moving air masses and force them to dump precipitation on whatever lies below.

To meet the threat, Swiss farmers have been firing silver iodide into clouds since the 18th century, says Spoehel, a board member of the Swiss association to combat hail.

Around 190 communities in the German and French-speaking parts of Switzerland are



Swiss farmer Ernst Spoehel prepares a silver iodide-loaded anti-hail rocket for launching.

members of the association, and many help finance the hailbuster rockets, which cost around 80 Swiss francs (\$50) each. Spoehel's village of Meilen contributes 5,000 francs (\$3,100) a year, for instance.

Interest is growing in the Italian-speaking southern canton on Ticino as well, Spoehel says.

Spoehel, a ruddy-faced oak of a man whose meaty hands almost engulf one of his rockets, is a prime example of the homespun scientists who swear by the system.

He said his rockets have

protected him from hail except for one time when a storm moved into the area so quickly the rockets had no time to take effect.

A barometer hangs on the kitchen wall, but he gleams most of his weather information from his cable television, which broadcasts satellite pictures of Europe and regular updates on humidity, wind speed and air pressure.

This year has been relatively calm, but some bad seasons have prompted him to fire rockets seven or eight times. Two projectiles at a time suffice to guard his

land, and his neighbours can launch their own rockets when and where needed.

"In a hilly area like this, it is very difficult to judge when the front will be over the next village," he explains.

News of impending rocket attacks is passed along to air traffic controllers, who warn aircraft to stay away from farmers drawing a bead on storm fronts moving in.

The farmers get their rockets from Hans Hamberger AG, a fireworks manufacturer that is Switzerland's sole supplier of the devices.

Manufacturing chief Kurt Abegglin says Hamberger sells between 2,000 and 3,000 each year, almost all to Swiss customers, some to Sweden and Africa.

Exports have pretty much dried up, especially to Africa. "I guess the rockets got too expensive," he reasons.

Swiss customers who live outside communities willing to back hailbusters financially have to foot the bill themselves because insurers question how well they work.

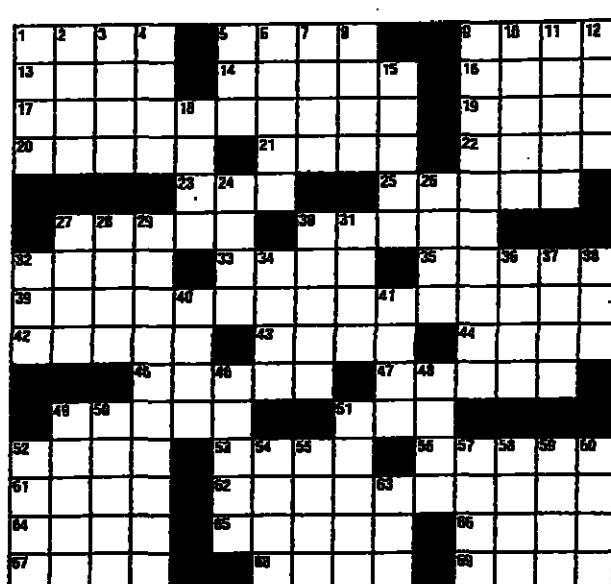
Scharpf of the Hail Insurers Association thinks the rockets provide more psychological than actual relief, saying most proponents take out large hail insurance policies as well.

"These people are farmers, and sometimes they have to watch a storm destroy their crops in the space of 10 minutes," he says. "That is a whole year's work just wiped out. They have to try everything they can. Whether it works or not is another question, but they have to do something."

Swiss hail insurers, who pay around 45 million Swiss francs (\$28 million) annually for crop damage, helped finance a seven-year study by the Federal Institute of Technology that used large Russian rockets to seed clouds, Scharpf says.

"According to that experience it had no effect whatsoever. There was just as much damage done by storms where rockets were fired as there was when no rockets were fired."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Wander
- 5 Too bad!
- 9 Cut
- 13 Eternally
- 14 Ship parts
- 16 Eight: Comb. form
- 17 Goes into business
- 19 Catch a fly ball
- 20 Jogs
- 21 Sign of sorrow
- 22 Word on a towel
- 23 Hesitant sounds
- 25 Lyric poem
- 27 Old hat
- 30 Soak in water
- 32 Cunning
- 33 Baron
- 35 Swords
- 39 Zygomorphically shaped
- 42 Skilled
- 43 Lincoln and Beame
- 44 Word for a busybody
- 45 Buddhist's cosmic justice
- 47 Corner
- 49 "Aida" or "Carmen", e.g.
- 51 Before, to a

DOWN

- 1 Take ten
- 2 Finished
- 3 Vote against
- 4 Former, formerly
- 5 Elec. unit
- 6 Endures
- 7 Tennis name of fame
- 8 Portico
- 9 Market
- 10 Pained
- 11 Ogle
- 12 Gluttons
- 15 Toot
- 18 Employ
- 24 Trust, with "on"
- 26 Nobleman
- 27 Encourage
- 28 Blamish
- 29 Tradesman

ACROSS

- 30 Brazilian dance
- 31 Fr or fig
- 32 MDS' org.
- 34 Eastern title
- 36 EPA concern
- 37 Facilitate
- 38 Fox
- 40 Get top billing
- 41 Anagram for 40
- 46 Poker play
- 48 Tide
- 49 Corpulent
- 50 Part of a table setting
- 51 Corroded
- 52 Pub drinks
- 54 Units of resistance
- 55 Brass instrument
- 57 Doctrines
- 58 Pump, for one
- 59 Traditional knowledge
- 60 Heroic poem
- 63 Yorkshire river

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 6
♥ Q 10 8
♦ J 6 2
♣ J 9 7 5

WEST

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 4 3
♦ A K 9 7 4
♣ Q 6 2

EAST

♠ 7 5 4 3 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 10 8 5
♣ A 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q
♥ A K J 9 2
♦ Q 3
♣ K 10 8 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Many of our favorite bridge players know how to enjoy a good meal. Perhaps their spouses will enjoy reading some of the recipes that appear in D.J. Cook's *Cook & Deal II* (286 pp, hard cover, spiral bound \$15.95 plus \$2 postage from the author, P.O. Box 3238, Beach Stn., Vero Beach, Fla. 32964). It combines some excellent recipes with 52 bridge hands of more than passing interest. This hand is typical.

South's jump to four hearts is a little aggressive. With two queens of doubtful value, a game try of three clubs might have been more advisable.

After West's lead of the diamond king, declarer can see two sure losers in diamonds and one in clubs. In addition, there is the danger of a second club loser if declarer misguesses the suit. However, a dash of deception could eliminate all guesswork.

Under the king of diamonds declarer should sacrifice his queen. That puts West under a lot of pressure. From his point of view, the queen of diamonds could get ruffed, setting up the jack for a critical discard.

But any switch by West presents declarer with his contract. If West shifts to a club, East can win and return a diamond, but now declarer gets two club discards—one on the jack of diamonds and the other on a spade. And if West shifts to a spade, declarer wins, draws trump and takes a diamond discard on the third spade.

The only defense to give declarer a chance to go wrong is for West to cash his top diamonds, then exit in any suit save clubs. But after South's morsel at trick one, we admit that we wouldn't have found that defense.

South's jump to four hearts is a little aggressive. With two queens of doubtful value, a game try of three clubs might have been more advisable.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SHAH PAIS STS
TAME ARBOR PERU
OREL DISSIPATED
PENITENTS ALANS
PINTA SPEEDY
MELON SITTER
ADORED NEAR SPA
CENT REPER SHAQ
ENE LEAR SECURE
PASTOR MATES
CANONS MERIT
AGORA EFFORTFUL
FASTIDIOUS ERNE
ETES AROSE REIN
SEIS BIDE SETS



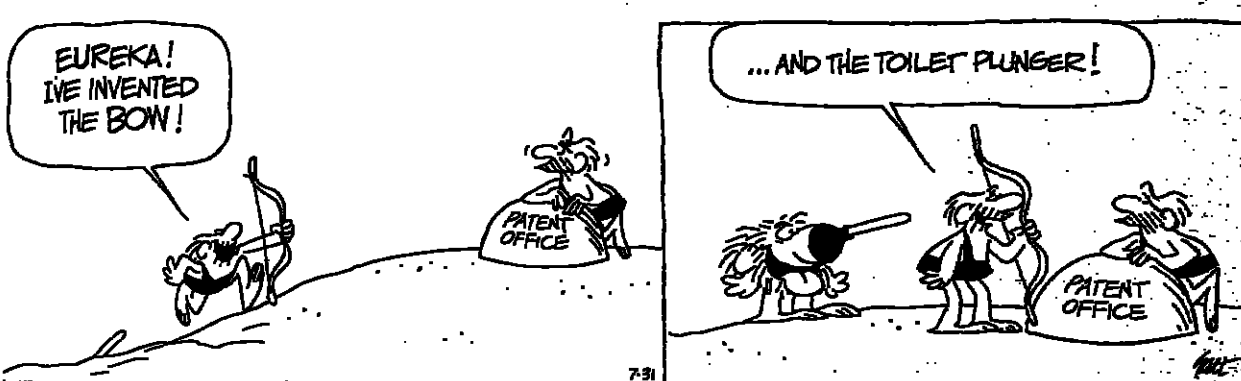
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You must ensure you do not associate speed with superficiality. Avoid trying to run before you can walk. Take a little more interest in what is happening around you. Be generous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Do not confuse curiosity with busybodies. Let others have their say. Make sure you do not do anything that might be injurious to your health. Be practical.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Do not allow yourself to be taken advantage of. However do not expect others to do everything for you. Take greater care when on the road. Be a little more conscientious.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Do not do anything that would obviously give rise to jealousy. Make sure you do not allow anything slapdash to get into circulation. Avoid coming into conflict with someone you do not like very much. Be on your guard.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be able to devise a better way of doing something that often has to be done. You will hear something very much to your liking. Avoid having too many late night in succession. Be sensible.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Something you are earning will now reach a difficult stage: persevere. Be moderate. Give yourself enough room for manoeuvre. Make sure you do not allow dirt to accumulate.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

You should be on the lookout for errors as much made by others as by you. Do not do anything that would result in your putting on weight. Make sure you do not take on more commitments than you can meet. Be reliable.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

You will arrive at the reason why something is continually going wrong. Take another look at those little expenses that are mounting up. Do not be late in paying your bills. Be polite.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Avoid leaving until later something that should be done now. You are liable to mistake what is not for what is important. Try to spend a little longer in the open air. Be methodical.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Ensure you get your priorities right. Allow a little more time—things will take longer than you think they will. Do something that will please your partner. Do check your results particularly when a calculator or computer is involved. Be considerate.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

Beware of doing anything that would get a friend into trouble. Make sure you have a good idea of your bank balance. You will be less inclined to do what has to be done, try to pull yourself together. Be less flamboyant.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

If you rely on yourself to do repairs you could well do something seriously wrong. Do your best to avoid getting into an argument. Your lucky numbers are 25 and 31. Do not leave a letter unanswered. Be prudent.

By Daniel Barenblatt

"THE universe," said Einstein "is like an endless corridor of open doors, each of which presents a rubber welcome mat that covers the wrong key." Well, actually Einstein never said that, but he certainly could have, given the proper frame of mind and enough sherry. Like other great and lesser minds, he understood that man may never unravel all the cosmic mysteries. And chief among these enigmas is the amazing psychic prowess of Raoul Babbo, a man who seems to have attained contact with the fourth dimension, or possibly the fifth (who can figure out these damn new community zoning laws?)

Of course, science says that such Babbo feats as the telekinetic propulsion of paperweights are impossible. And science says that the law of conservation of matter and energy may never be defied. Now quick—put your hands on your head! Aha—got you. I didn't say, "science says." The point is that many of Babbo's proven abilities evade rational explanation, especially if he lets you cut the deck. Undoubtedly, a brief biography is in order.

Pre-birth

There is evidence that Raoul Babbo could control the course of the future even before it was apparent that he was to have one. How else to explain the fact the Raoul was receiving mail before he was born? His mother reports: "I would be in the kitchen, polishing the linoleum or something, when all of a sudden the doorbell would ring and the postman would be there, handing me copies of *Car and Driver* and *Glamour*, mail-order X-ray specs,

Psychic sniggers

Hickory Farms catalogues—all manner of junk mail, addressed to him. And I didn't even know I was pregnant!" Interestingly enough, the precocious Babbo wishfully tried to order such spurious journals as *Playboy* and *Woman and Country*. Because of the subscription fees and postage due, the bewildered Babboes were forced to leave the safe, clean suburbs of Shaker Heights and take up residence in North Wyoming, a land with no zip code.

Childhood

Raoul Babbo's telepathy burst into full flower by age 10, making him the class "rocks, paper, scissors" champ. Still, the young Babbo had to grow into his powers gradually: he was a mischievous child by all accounts. A favourite prank was to call grouch neighbours and predict whether or not their refrigerator was running. On at least one occasion he had telekinetically hurled a dozen unopened pizzas through space, causing them to land at random doorsteps throughout town, with bill and receipt attached. All this by age 12—astounding when one considers that the best Russian psi-prodigies can seldom lob blinzies until well after their adolescence. And even then only during a chess game.

It didn't take long for word of Babbo's uniqueness to reach the Pentagon, and upon graduation from high school, he was offered a position as psychic advisor to the military

intelligence and Soviet monitoring division. Babbo's attempts to telepathically divine the location of Soviet missile silos became problematic, however, when he kept honing on the same three base areas: The Bermuda Triangle, Scotland's Loch Ness, and the deep, dark forests of Oregon and Northern California. These sites were searched and no missiles were found, but a full report was never issued, and Babbo was terminated from his position amongst rumours that things of far greater significance had actually been discovered. One question remained: could Bigfoot actually be detonated?

Babbo today

As a young adult, the besieged Babbo found himself plagued by professional pedagogical sticklers for the scientific method, who demanded so-called "evidence" for his abilities. Unfortunately, Babbo's mental capacity to move objects, read minds, and prognosticate all vanished under laboratory conditions, due to a state of nervousness induced by the presence of men in white suits. His psychic vibrations become similarly distorted during visits to the dentist, when he is able to make only one prediction: something about gingivitis.

Ever resourceful, Babbo turned to show business, where he found sporadic employment as a freethinking ventriloquist's dummy on several episodes of occult-oriented TV shows.

evenly."

The guard returned. "The mob is coming up the stairs," he cried. "They want to throw the entire family into the dungeon."

"They do now," Marie Antoinette said, "but when they taste my brownies they will be buying me furs and diamonds." She turned to me and asked, "Would you like me to stand by the stove with my Russian wolfhounds?"

I told her that would be great, but first I wanted a picture of her serving the brownies to the peasants. I didn't have to wait long. The crowd crashed through the door screaming "bread" and the queen offered them brownies. To a man and woman, they sank to their knees and begged her for the recipe.

I didn't photograph Marie again until Oct 16, 1793, and, as I was a foreigner, I had a front seat at her execution. On Oct 20, 1793, People magazine ran its last cover photo of Marie Antoinette. It was a head shot.

1989 Los Angeles times Syndicate

The Art Buchwald Column

Vive la revolution!

The gatekeeper directed me toward the kitchen where I would find Marie Antoinette. This was a break because I had never photographed her doing any domestic chores before. When I entered, I found the queen bedecked in a royal apron, attended by six ladies-in-waiting. "What are you making?" I asked her.

"Brownies," she smiled. "I am sure it will quiet the rabble."

"I don't understand," I said. She explained, "The mob has been shouting for bread all night long, but I'm not going to give them any. I know what the French need, and it's something sweet with chocolate in it."

I was snapping pictures. "This is wonderful. The photo caption will read, 'Queen Saves Her Throne in Versailles Bakeoff.'"

A guard came in and announced, "The mob has broken down the gates and will be inside the palace in a few minutes."

The queen told him, "Well, tell them I'm not ready. I hate it when the peasants become impatient."

The guard shrugged his shoulders. "Where is the king?" I asked.

"He's sleeping in," the queen replied. "One of his advisers suggested that if he couldn't stand the heat, then he should stay out of the kitchen. I think I'll put a little powdered sugar on this batch."

"From your wig?" I exclaimed.

"Yes, it's a trick I learned from my German grandmother. You put the sugar inside the wig and then shake your head and the powder falls out

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Lemond wants to race for US team in 1990

MONTREAL, Aug. 6, (AP) — Tour de France champion Greg Lemond said yesterday he hopes to race for an American team next season, but that such a team would have to be stocked only with American riders.

"It's unrealistic to think you can win a race like the Tour de France with an all-American team," Lemond said after arriving in Montreal for today's Grand Prix de Ameriques, the seventh event on the new cycling World Cup circuit.

"We don't have that depth of quality in the

United States. You need some European riders to give you that depth."

American teams are on Lemond's mind since he won the Tour de France from Frenchman Laurent Fignon on the final day of the three-week race on July 23. Lemond, 28, is seeking to leave the ADR team from Belgium and said he wants to race for an American squad or, if not, a French team.

"I haven't decided yet, but most likely it's going to be an American team," he said. "I want to come back. I've raced in Europe a long time

and I think for cycling in America, it's better for me to be associated with an American team."

Rumours surfaced last week that the US-based 7-Eleven team had offered Lemond a \$1.1 million contract, the richest in the sport, and that Lemond may form his own team with his sponsor, Coors.

International Professional Cycling Union rules prohibit making offers to another team's riders while they are still under contract. Lemond admitted only that he was in negotiations to change teams.

ADR, owned by a Belgian car rental company, reportedly has been as much as a month late in payments to its riders all season.

"My contract has been continuously broken since January 1," Lemond said.

Lemond said with a grin that 7-Eleven was strong enough to win a Tour de France "if I'm on it."

"Andy Hampsten is a big talent, he's won the Tour of Italy. They've got some good riders but they're not exclusively American. They've got a mixture of riders."

McKinley in stable condition

SACRAMENTO, California, Aug. 6, (UPI) — Scott McKinley, leader of the 1988 US Olympic cycling team, crashed into a post with six laps to go in a 42-mile (67-km) race Friday fracturing 12 ribs.

McKinley, 20, was in stable condition yesterday at the University of California's Davis Medical Centre. Doctors said he would be out of action for several months but did not consider the injuries career-threatening.

Besides massive rib damage, the hometown rider had a collapsed left lung and internal bleeding, said Dr. Daniel Benson. However, the bleeding had stabilized, McKinley was in stable condition and would probably not require surgery.

Benson, who was on the old Sacramento criterium race course as a volunteer, said he saw McKinley crash alone as he became jammed by other riders on a paved section of road next to cobblestones along the Sacramento riverfront.

The cyclist slammed into a heavy wooden road marker at about 30 mph (48 kph), he said.

"It's about a minute, I couldn't breathe," the rider said from his hospital bed yesterday. "The pain was unbelievable."

The accident for the pre-race favourite occurred a year to the day that McKinley won the US Olympic trials in Spokane, Washington, to lead a three-man road team to Seoul. He was to leave for Europe next week to finish the season with other members of the 7-Eleven team.

Doctors said he may be out of action for at least six weeks — and possibly the rest of the season.

Coincidentally, the same hospital emergency room team also worked on two-time Tour de France winner Greg Lemond following his near-fatal shooting accident two years ago.

In Friday night's race Chris Huber of the rival Coors Light team was the winner, finishing in 1 hour, 29 minutes and 25 seconds. Frankie Andreau of 7-Eleven was second and Dave Farmer of Crest was third, both in 1:29:33.

Andreau had been trailing McKinley, who finished second in last year's Sacramento race, when the crash occurred.

"We were working for Scott, hoping to get him a win," Andreau said. "But we had to keep racing afterwards."

In the women's 28-mile (45 km) race, Katrina Tobin won in 1 hour, seven minutes and seven-tenths of a second. She was followed by teammates Sally Zack and Ruthie Matthes, each in 1:07:57.

Daniel holds four-shot lead

BETHESDA, Md., Aug. 6, (Reuters) — Beth Daniel, seeking her first victory in four years, boosted her lead to four shots after posting a three-under-par 68 in the second round of the 54-hole Greater Washington Open golf tournament.

Daniel, who held a one-stroke lead after an opening 66, stood at eight-under-par 134 going into the final round of the \$300,000 event.

Giants blank Astros

Mets overcome Expos

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6, (AP) — Will Clark doubled, driving in a run and helping the San Francisco Giants beat Houston 7-0 last night and continue their domination of the Astros.

"It's the biggest advantage park in the League," Clark said of the hometown win that saw San Francisco improve its win-loss record against the Houston Astros to 5-0 in Candlestick Park and increased their lead over Houston to three games in the National League West.

"We have a big advantage here," concurred Brett Butler, who had a homer and a double for the Giants. "I didn't like coming here as an opponent but you play 81 games here and you fall in love with the place."

Cubs 4, Pirates 2

Shawon Dunston's single drove in the go-ahead run in Chicago's three-run ninth against Pittsburgh. Bill Landrum, rallying the Cubs to a 4-2 victory over the Pirates.

Padres 4, Dodgers 2

Marvell Wynne and Chris James hit home runs as the San Diego Padres ended the Los Angeles Dodgers' three-game winning streak with a 4-2 victory.

Mets 3, Expos 2

Pitch-hitter Darryl Strawberry tied the score with a double in the eighth inning and Kevin Elster's run-scoring single off reliever Tim Burke gave New York a dramatic 3-2 victory over

Montreal as the Expos fell into a first-place tie with Chicago in the National League East.

Braves 7, Reds 1

Darrell Evans' tie-breaking home run in the fourth inning, one of four solo shots hit by



Strawberry (left) tied the score

Atlanta, led the Braves to a 7-1 victory over the Cincinnati Reds. Phillies 7, Cardinals 3

Ricky Jordan hit a three-run homer and Terry Mulholland won his first game in over a month as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-3.

Red Sox 10, Indians 2

Danny Heep and Jody Reed had solo homers in the sixth inning and Wade Boggs hit another to ignite a seven-run seventh inning as the Boston Red Sox ended a three-game losing streak with a 10-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians yesterday.

Mike Smithson, 6-9, scattered six hits, all singles, for seven innings and Dennis Lamp completed the victory, snapping Cleveland's three-game winning streak.

John Farrell, 6-11, took the loss.

Heep, batting cleanup with Mike Greenwell disabled by a sprained ankle, also had a pair of doubles to go with his 28th homer in eight Major League seasons.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 4

Ken Phelps hit a pinch-hit two-run homer in the top of the eighth and left fielder Mel Hall threw out a Toronto runner at the plate in the bottom of the inning as the New York Yankees edged the Blue Jays 5-4.

White Sox 7, Tigers 6

Chicago stretched its home

winning streak to 13 games as Carlton Fisk had four hits for the 13th time in his career and drove in four runs.

Orioles 5, Rangers 2

Rookie Bob Milacki won for the first time in exactly a month, scattering seven hits in 8 1-3 innings as Baltimore won for only the third time in 17 games and continuing its domination of Texas ace Nolan Ryan.

Brewers 5, Angels 2

Teddy Higuera pitched a five-hitter for his first complete game of the season and fourth straight victory as Milwaukee ended California's three-game winning streak.

Twins 6, Royals 4

Kent Hrbek's three-run homer with two out in the seventh inning completed Minnesota's comeback from a 4-0 deficit. Hrbek hit a 2-2 pitch from reliever Jeff Montgomery into the upper deck in right field for his 16th home run.

Results		American League		National League	
Boston	10	Cleveland	2	San Diego	4
New York	5	Toronto	2	Pittsburgh	4
Chicago	7	Detroit	1	San Francisco	7
Baltimore	5	Texas	2	Atlanta	7
Milwaukee	5	California	2	New York	5
Minnesota	6	Kansas City	2	Philadelphia	7
Seattle	11	Oakland	2	St. Louis	6

Arsenal face Independiente

MIAMI, Aug. 6, (UPI) — English League champion Arsenal were to take on Independiente of Argentina today in the first game since 1986 between teams from the two nations, adversaries in the Falklands war of 1982.

The game this evening, billed as the Zenith Cup, is part of Arsenal manager's effort to line up as much international competition as possible. Arsenal, as well as all English soccer clubs, is barred from European competition as a result of rowdiness by fans.

"We're very keen to get back into European competition, and games like this one serve to keep us sharp for it," said Arsenal centre forward Alan Smith, the team's leading scorer last season.

The game is also something of a tune-up for another pre-season match: A crowd of 85,000 is expected at Wembley stadium in London next Saturday when Arsenal plays Liverpool in the Charity Shield match. Arsenal

defeated Liverpool 2-0 to win the English League championship in May.

The Gunners had to win by two goals to win the title, and Michael Thomas scored on a breakaway with 15 seconds left.

"It was a fairy tale, a shock," Graham said.

"We've gotten over those feelings of elation," Smith said. "Starting Sunday, we have to prove ourselves all over again."

The player to watch for Independiente is Ricardo Bochini. Diego Maradona, the 1986 World Cup star, now plays for Napoli in Italy.

A sparse crowd was expected for the event this evening at Joe Robbie Stadium, but owner Joe Robbie hopes to build a core of fans. The 1994 World Cup will be in the United States and Robbie hopes his stadium will be a primary site.

"The American spectators have five years to wake up," Graham said.



Alan Smith

US outlast Roma 4-3 for third place

SAINT VINCENT, Italy, Aug. 6, (UPI) — The US national soccer team beat Italy's Roma club by 4 goals to 3 in this Alpine gambling resort yesterday to claim third place in the Baretto Memorial tournament. At half-time Roma was leading 2-1.

The match, played before a scattering of fans under cloudy skies, gave the lively American team a record of one win and one narrow defeat in the tournament, in which it was competing against Italian League teams Roma, Fiorentina and Sampdoria.

On Thursday the US team was beaten 1-0 by Sampdoria of Genoa with 58th minute goal by star Italian international striker Gianluca Vialli. The same night Fiorentina beat Roma 6-3 after a penalty shoot-out, so the US and Roma were battling for third and fourth places in yesterday's match.

The US team staged a great fightback in the second half, scoring three goals in the space of nine minutes, after Roma notched its 2-1 first half lead.

The bright showing in the Italian tournament was an encouragement for the US team in its struggle to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals to be played in Italy next June.



Alan Fordham

Leading placings	
1. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden) Lancia Delta 1, 7 hours six mins 00 seconds; 2. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy) Lancia Delta 1, 7:08:26; 3. Jorge Recalde (Argentina) Lancia Delta 1, 7:19:42; 4. George Fischer (Austria) Audi Quattro, 7:42:10; 5. Ernesto Soto (Argentina) Renault 18 GTX, 7:48:25; 6. Fernando Silla (Argentina) Renault 18 GTX, 7:56:42; 7. Gustavo Trellet (Uruguay) Lancia Delta 1, 7:58:01; 8. Juan Traverso (Argentina) Renault 18 GTX, 7:59:57; 9. Jorge Bescham (Argentina) Fiat Regatta, 8:11:28; 10. Elio Fuchter (Brazil) VW Gol 1.6, 8:21:50.	
Drivers' standings	
1. Massimo Biondi (Italy) Lancia Delta Integrato, 80 points; 2. Didier Auriol (France) Ford Sierra Cosworth, 50 points; 3. Invar Carlsson (Sweden) Mazda 323, 40 points; 4. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy) Lancia Delta 1, 40 points; 5. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden) Lancia Delta 1, 30 points; 6. Stig Blomqvist (Sweden) Ford Sierra Cosworth, 20 points; 7. Juha Kankkunen (Finland) Toyota, 20 points; 8. Jorge Recalde (Argentina) Lancia Delta 1, 20 points; 9. George Fischer (Austria) Audi Quattro, 20 points; 10. Marc Duez (Belgium) Toyota Celica, 17 points.	

Park Avenue Joe wins

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Aug. 6, (AP) — Park Avenue Joe and Probe raced to the first dead heat in the 64-year history of the Hambletonian in a raceoff at the Meadowlands. Park Avenue Joe, however, was declared winner because of better finishes in the earlier heats.

Park Avenue Joe was second in the first heat and winner of the second heat. Probe won the first heat but was ninth in the second after breaking stride.

That meant Park Avenue Joe earned half of the \$1,131,000 purse.

The two heat winners put on a spine-tingling stretch duel in their raceoff in 96-degree heat. Stewards called for two prints of the photo finish and deliberated for several minutes before declaring the race for 3-year-old trotters a dead heat.

Probe won the first heat by a head over Park Avenue Joe. Park Avenue Joe won the second heat by 1 lengths over Peace Corps as Probe finished 14 lengths back.

"He got run into," Probe's driver, William Fahy, said.

To win the Hambletonian, a trotter must win two heats. So Probe and Park Avenue Joe returned for their raceoff before an estimated crowd of 30,000.

Probe broke on top but was quickly replaced by Park Avenue Joe before the raceoff had gone one-quarter of a mile. Park Avenue Joe, driven by Ron Waples, led Probe down the backstretch and around the turn.

Approaching the quarter pole, Fahy moved Probe up the rail to challenge.



Graham Gooch

Langer and Gilder share golf lead

W. German seeks to impress Jacklin



Langer: hopes to win a Ryder Cup berth

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 6, (Reuters) — West Germany's Bernhard Langer shot a three-under-par 68 yesterday to tie Bob Gilder for a share of the lead heading into the final round of the St. Jude classic golf tournament.

Langer and Gilder, who posted a 70 that included six birdies and five bogeys, were knotted at nine-under-par 204 after 54 holes at the tournament players course at Southwind designed by players Fuzzy Zoeller and Hubert Green.

One stroke back was 26-year-old Billy Ray Brown, the youngest player on the PGA Tour, who shot an even-par 71 to stand alone at 205.

Two strokes off the pace were former PGA champion Bob Tway and Mike Donald, who shot 68 and 69 respectively.

Third-round leader Ed Fiori had his troubles on the back nine and finished at five-over 76. He trailed the co-leaders by four strokes. Three shots behind the leaders were John Mahaffey and Mark Lye.

Langer said his short game had put him into the lead.

"I was struggling early today with hitting fairways and greens but my short game saved me," said Langer. "My short game has kept me in this tournament all week long. On the last 12 holes, though, my ball striking improved and I feel good heading into Sunday's round."

Langer is trying to make an impression on European Ryder Cup captain Tony Jacklin in the next few weeks. He has not yet qualified for the Ryder Cup team and wants a place.

Gilder said the wind and tough pin placements had made scoring difficult.

"The golf course showed its teeth today. I made a number of mental mistakes today that I must eliminate if I'm going to win the golf tournament," he said.

Hick takes five Essex wickets

LONDON, Aug. 6, (Reuters) — Master batsman Graeme Hick produced career-best bowling figures as English championship leaders Worcestershire dismissed closest challengers Essex for 28 yesterday.

Hick's gentle off-spin on a Colchester pitch which offered no great encouragement earned him five for 52 after Essex collapsed from 89 for one.

Among his victims was Nasser Hussain, considered by many to be unlucky to be overlooked for next week's fifth England-Australia Test.

The England prospect made 47 before Hick held a stinging return catch.

Opener Graham Gooch, omitted from the Test side in order to concentrate on regaining his form at county level, hit his first half century in 10 first class innings. The Essex captain struck 10 fours in 51.

Worcestershire cruised to 113 for one in reply. Gloucestershire's Courtney Walsh destroyed Lancashire with a blistering six for 40 at Cheltenham. It was the fifth time this season the West Indian had taken at least five wickets.

Lancashire were all out for 93 inside 25 overs. Kevin Jarvis completed the demolition with four for 37.

England rebels John Emburey and Mike Gatting experienced mixed fortunes for Middlesex against Somerset at Weston-Super-Mare.

Off-spinner Emburey took six for 38, his best figures of the season, to shoot out Somerset for 212.

But Gatting, captain for the South Africa tour, scored only four in a Middlesex reply of 56 for three.

Somerset's South African batsman Jimmy Cook made 25 and became the first to score 2,000 this summer.

Alan Fordham fell one short of a double century as Northamptonshire reached 379 against Yorkshire.

Fordham faced 281 balls and hit two sixes and 29 fours in his record score on the Sheffield ground.

Paul Jarvis, another England rebel, claimed four for 10 as the last eight Northamptonshire wickets fell for 41.

Former England batsman David Smith struck 184 in a Sussex total of 325 for six declared against Nottinghamshire at Eastbourne.

Warwickshire's South African fast bowler Allan Donald ripped through the Kent fast order at Canterbury with a spell of five for nine. He finished with five for 57 though Kent totalled 287.

Owens opened door for blacks

OAKVILLE, Alabama, Aug. 6, (AP) — On an isolated cement patch in the middle of northwest Alabama farm country, young and old gather each day to play basketball at the one reminder of Jesse Owens' birthplace.

Jesse Owens Memorial Park stands alongside Lawrence County 61 in the heart of Oakville, a community so small it doesn't warrant a traffic light and some state highway maps don't even list it.

The park is the centre of life in Oakville, nearly everyone comes out on the weekends to play basketball or pass the time with their neighbours. But some people complain that local officials have not done enough to remember one of the world's greatest athletes, a man who defied Adolf Hitler's twisted dreams of superiority at the 1936 Olympic Games.

"He did a lot to help black people get into sports," said 31-year-old Jerome Fitzgerald, Owens' second cousin. "Back then, blacks couldn't compete because everyone thought they were inferior. He opened the door for all sports."

"Other athletes have gotten more attention, and their accomplishments are not as high as what Jesse Owens did."

The park is actually a small patch of grass less than half as long as the 100-metre track at Berlin where Owens blazed to a world record in the 1936 Olympics and earned one of his four gold medals.

In a corner is a brick wall with an enclosed glass case containing newspaper and magazine articles describing Owens' brilliant athletic career.

One photo shows him with Lutz Long, a German athlete who befriended Owens during the broad jump competition when it appeared the American star might foul out.

Long's advice helped Owens win with a jump sportswriter Grantland Rice said seemed to take him "clear out of Germany." Owens also won the 200-metre dash and the 400-metre relay.

There is a photo of Owens with his parents, Henry and Emma Owens, who were Alabama sharecroppers when their son was born in Oakville in 1913. The family moved to Ohio in the early 1920s.

"My only regret is that he never came back to Oakville," said Fitzgerald, who never got a chance to meet his cousin before he died in 1980. "He should have come back here to acknowledge his people."

Next to the photo case is a granite monument dedicated in 1983. The inscription reads:

"He inspired a world enslaved in tyranny and brought hope to his fellow man... from the cottonfields of Oakville to the acclaim of the entire world, he made us all proud to be called Lawrence Countians."

The monument was intended for the county seat of Moulton, about 10 miles away. But county commissioners, amid allegations of racism, blocked any effort to erect the memorial on the courthouse lawn in 1983, so it wound up on the half-acre donated by a black masonic lodge.

The main attraction at Jesse Owens Park is a concrete court with a pair of aging basketball goals at opposite ends.

Each day, dozens of people, ranging from schoolchildren to grown-up men, gather for friendly — but very competitive — games just a few hundred yards from the site where Owens was born 76 years ago.

"Even people who are not related to him are proud of him, proud to have this here," Fitzgerald said after coming off the court on a recent summer day. "But I'm sure everybody feels more could be done."

The basketball goals could use new nets and rims. And the players have to be careful if they go diving for loose balls on the side of the court where a barbed wire fence stands just a few feet away.

Fitzgerald said he would like to see the park expanded, perhaps to include a playground and bicycle trail.

"If we had a larger park, we might get more people down here in the community from the surrounding areas," he said. "We might even start a few businesses. All we've got now is a few homes and this park."

County commissioner Larry Louallen of Moulton, who represents the district that includes Oakville, said the county is not obligated to care for the park.

"It's something that doesn't come under the parks programmes within the county," he said.

But Louallen, who wasn't on the commission during the 1983 controversy, said he would like to see the county take a more active role in commemorating Owens' birthplace.

"One of the things we've talked about is possibly a museum, with some of the relics from his past, his time, being housed in the museum," he said. "I think it would be an asset to the county as a tourist attraction."

"It's something we've talked about, but as far as getting down to the funding or the feasibility of doing it, we haven't done any of that."

A fund-raising drive has been started to acquire more land for the park, but Fitzgerald said it would help if Lawrence County officials got more involved.

The basketball game breaks up as night falls. Fitzgerald gathers up the two balls and heads for home, turning to say:

"Tell everybody they're welcome to come."

SPORTS

Ministers trying to avoid boycott

CANBERRA, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Eight foreign ministers will discuss tomorrow a plan to save next year's Commonwealth Games from boycotts, particularly by African states protesting over a planned tour of South Africa by rebel English cricketers.

The plan to save the Games, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in January, has been drawn up for discussion among Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting to talk about ways to tighten economic sanctions against South Africa.

"We are worried about the possibility of a Games boycott," said Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark, chairman of the three-day meeting, also to be attended by Australia, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"I hope we can begin discussion of some measures which are designed principally to strengthen the institution of the Commonwealth Games. But I think they might also have the effect of making the Games seem valuable enough that the threat of boycott might decline," Clark told reporters.

He declined to reveal the contents of the plan but said he expected it to be ready for approval by the full Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Malaysia in October.

Clark said that in essence it would involve lesser developed members of the Commonwealth, a grouping of nearly 50 former British colonies and dominions, receiving financial and technical aid to become more involved in participating in the Games.

"It is harder for developing countries to fund them or to set in place the expertise. I think we can do something about that to make sure the Games become practical for a wide range of countries of the Commonwealth," Clark said.

He said he had already discussed the plan with other foreign ministers, including New Zealand's Russell Marshall, who will be attending the Canberra meeting as an observer, along with Malaysia.

Developing countries staged a mass boycott of the previous Games, at Edinburgh in 1986, over Britain's refusal to tighten economic sanctions, which Britain felt would harm blacks in South Africa more than whites.

British authorities have denounced the rebel English cricket tour, which includes many of the country's top players and will take place over the next two South African seasons. It has raised the prospect of another boycott.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Westminster System-17 Bridge Club game played at the Regency Palace on July 30:

1. Nabil Akel & Narendra Shah; 2. Laila Merab & Adly Tab; 3. Ezzeldin & Sherin Bayouni.

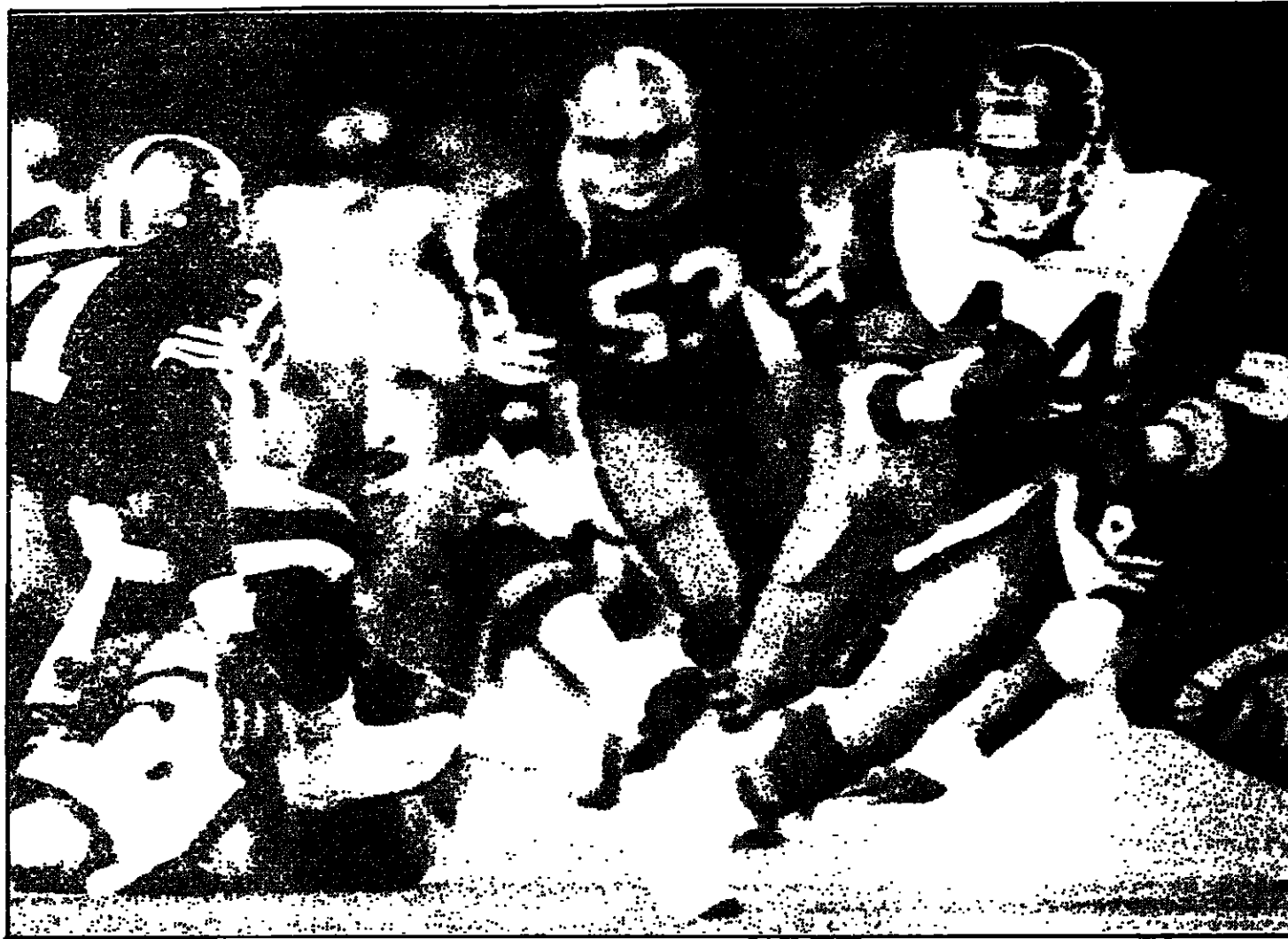
RESULTS of the Hubara Bridge Club game played on July 29:

1. Ezzeldin & Sherin Bayouni; 2. Nabil Akel & Narendra Shah; 3. Rita Giacola & Mohammed El Baz.

4. W. Nazareth & Java; 5. Diab & Ibrahim; 6. Beatrice Pereira & Aubrey D'Souza.

Lansford takes Rams past 49ers

Japanese enjoy American football game



Green (right) runs with the ball past the 49er pack. (Reuters wirephoto)

TOKYO, Aug. 6. (AP): Mike Lansford's 29-yard field goal gave the Los Angeles Rams a dramatic 16-13 overtime victory against the San Francisco 49ers today, delighting a spirited crowd of curious Japanese pre-season football fans.

The kick, Lansford's third field goal of the game, climaxed a chaotic ending after the 49ers blocked three field goal tries, two by rookie tight end Wesley Walls. But the final two were nullified by offside penalties and Lansford's third kick in three plays finally went through.

The kick made 49ers rookie head coach George Seifert a loser in his first game replacing Bill Walsh, who coached the 49ers to three Super Bowl victories in 10 years, including last season.

Robert Delapino rushed three times for 24 yards in the Rams' game-winning 51-yard scoring drive, which followed a 24-yard punt return by Thomas Henley in only the second National Football League game on Asian soil and the first in 13 years.

Caston Green rushed 28 times for 161 yards for the Rams and was named the American Bowl Most Valuable Player.

A sellout Tokyo Dome crowd of 43,000 fans, taking shelter from typhoon rains drenching the city, enthusiastically watched the two teams' pre-season opener along with a nation-wide television audience in both Japan and the U.S. Tickets ranged from \$35 to \$211 and scalpers were getting twice that outside the dome.

The mostly young crowd greeted the opening kickoff with an excited roar and applauded every good play, and a few bad ones, as they munched on such un-traditional football fare as fried octopus and sushi.

They loudly cheered every pass completed by the 49ers' Joe Montana, widely known here for his "magic pass" that won the Super Bowl last January. They shouted their approval for a broken-field scramble of 41 yards by Montana's backup, Steve Young, and a 47-yard pass from the Rams' Mark Ferrmann to Mike Williams. They laughed at fumbles and dropped passes and "oohed" at big-screen replays.

"This is 'Kokko-II' (cool)," enthused Yoshitake Fumada, a 17-year-old high school senior wearing a Rams jersey and cap. "Lots of power and the uniforms look cool."

Terry Green recovered a second-quarter fumble in the end zone after Terrence Flagger's 13-yard run and Mike Cofer kicked field goals of 33 and 39 yards to give the 49ers a 13-6 halftime lead.

Los Angeles' Mike Lansford matched each of Cofer's first-half field goals with kicks of 32 and 25 yards.

Both teams' first units came out midway through the second period, and the stars familiar to the Japanese played solidly. Montana completed 8 of 13 passes for 81 yards, Super Bowl MVP Jerry Rice caught two passes for 23 yards, Roger Craig carried four times for 25 yards and Rams' starting quarterback Jim Everett was 5 for 9 for 69 yards and an interception.

The Rams' goal-line defense stopped San Francisco at the 1-yard line when Frank Stams recovered Flagger's fumble with 2:41 left in the third quarter.

The Robert Delapino capped a 13-yard drive by punting into the left side of the end zone to tie the game at 13 with 8:18 left in the fourth period.

The only other NFL game in Asia was in Tokyo in 1976 when St. Louis beat San Diego 20-10. Japanese sponsors hope the success of this event will translate into an annual game.

More French players join S. Africa tour

BAYONNE, France, Aug. 6. (Reuters): French rugby union captain Pierre Berbizier and centre Philippe Sella have joined Laurent Rodriguez and Franck Mesnel in accepting invitations to join a world team tour of South Africa.

Scrum-half Berbizier and Sella announced their decisions to play in the controversial tour to mark the South African Rugby Board's (SARB) centenary celebrations after a meeting here yesterday.

Sources said on Friday that Rodriguez and fly-half Mesnel

had accepted their invitations. All four plan to travel to South Africa as individuals along with three officials and two former national team captains.

The quartet are the first to confirm their participation in the tour, which begins on August 19 and which has been shrouded in secrecy.

French Rugby Federation officials said around 40 French players, referees, and former captains were invited by the SARB to attend the centenary celebrations.

Invitations have also been

issued to players in England, Scotland, Wales and Australia and former British Lions captain Willie John McBride has been invited to manage the party.

Number eight Rodriguez defended his participation in the tour by saying, "I don't see why 80,000 or 100,000 French can go to South Africa each year without any problem, but when I decide to go in a personal capacity, on the invitation of friends, it becomes a problem."

"I'll go there as a tourist to visit friends for some days and if these friends propose a game of rugby

to me, I cannot refuse," he added.

Sella and Berbizier, who both play for Agen, said they would travel separately. "We don't want to deny the team two of its strong players at the beginning of the championship," Sella said.

Referee Francis Palmade, Jean-Pierre Bonnet and Rene Hourquet will also travel along with Christian Darouy and Robert Paparemborde, former French captains who have led teams against South Africa in the past.



Brad Gilbert

Gilbert outlasts Wheaton

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vt., Aug. 6. (Reuters): Third-seeded Brad Gilbert clawed his way into the finals of the \$602,500 international '89 tennis tournament by turning back feisty David Wheaton 5-7, 6-7 (5-3), 6-4 yesterday.

Gilbert, ranked 11th in the world, was to face Jim Pugh for the title today. Pugh beat Jim Grabb, who had eliminated French Open champion Michael Chang in the quarters, 6-2, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Gilbert, who has 13 career singles titles to his credit, does not possess overwhelming skills but relies on his ability to fight back and battle for victory.

"I win ugly, that's my style," Gilbert said. "If I play well I make guys play bad."

Yesterday, Gilbert's victim was Wheaton, whose path to the semifinals included a stunning upset of top seed Andre Agassi.

Wheaton began the match well, taking a 5-2 lead in the first set as he benefitted from Gilbert's faulty forehands. A precision backhand passing shot down the line on Gilbert's serve in the 12th game gave him the opening set.

In the second set, the players exchanged early breaks, but Wheaton broke Gilbert in the eighth game and served for the match at 5-3.

But nerves got the better of the unseeded

Wheaton, who had never reached a quarter-final before this week. Wheaton, ranked 122, then made three unforced errors as Gilbert broke right back.

"To be honest I was nervous at that point and it affected the way I played," said Wheaton. "It was a combination of my being nervous and tentative and his raising his game."

Luck was also with Gilbert, the bronze medalist at the Seoul Olympics. Two let-cords went his way in the second-set tiebreaker, which he won 7-5 to force a third set.

Nerves also played a part in the final set as Wheaton double-faulted on match point to end the match.

"With a young guy like that you have to make him earn it," said Gilbert. "Two years from now he might have won that match."

In the other all-American semifinal, Pugh kept up his recent winning form against Grabb. Three weeks ago in Newport, Pugh won his first professional tournament.

"I heard he had only been broken twice in the whole tournament before this," said Pugh, whose service returns coupled with swirling winds made things difficult for Grabb.

"Once I got him where he was staying back...that favoured me a lot more."

Hatid Ligaya protest

THE Hatid Ligaya-Abu Ghosh women's volleyball team has protested against the decision of the Paloro Volleyball Tournament to declare their team as losers and AJ Rashed as winners of the match scheduled to have been played last Friday afternoon.

According to the Hatid Ligaya squad, the game had been initially scheduled for 12.30 pm on Friday but on their request the time had been changed to 3.00 pm.

The Hatid Ligaya players, who are all nurses and had to change for the game, were late for the 3.00 pm match and Buddy Patungan declared AJ Rashed winners by default. By virtue of this decision, AJ Rashed finished in third

place. Hatid Ligaya contend that the squad was in the court at 3.05 pm and a team can only be defaulted after a wait of 15 minutes.

The team manager and team captain of Hatid Ligaya are said to have approached Patungan before this 15 minutes grace period lapsed and asked the game be allowed to take place.

According to one of the officials, Patungan replied: "Nainip na mga manonood" (the people are tired of waiting). He did not allow the game to take place.

Hatid Ligaya have launched an official protest against this decision with the Technical Committee which is scheduled to meet this afternoon to consider the appeal.



Boomerang

A photographer ducks as a boomerang whistles over his head during the West German Championships yesterday in West Berlin. West German Boomerang National Club is the biggest in the world. (Reuters wirephoto)

Garrison and Graf advance to final

Wimbledon champion crushes Bunge



Graf: brushed aside Bunge

SAN DIEGO, California, Aug. 6. (AP): Zina Garrison hasn't been watching Steffi Graf's matches at the Great American Bank Tennis Classic this week, but she is sure of one thing.

"They were pretty quick, huh?" said second-seeded Garrison, who was to meet the top-seeded Graf Sunday in the final of the \$200,000 tournament.

Graf defeated Bettina Bunge 6-1, 6-2, and Garrison rallied from a 1-4 deficit in the second set to eliminate Nathalie Tauziat 6-0, 7-5 in semifinal matches yesterday.

The meeting between Garrison and Graf will be their second this year. Garrison fell 6-1, 7-5 in a February indoor match. She last defeated Graf in 1985 but has lost the last four.

After spending two years out of tennis recovering from injuries, Bettina Bunge got a firsthand look at just how good Graf has become.

"I haven't had a match like that in years," Bunge said.

Managing just six points off the serve of the world's top woman player, Bunge realized she had been away too long.

"I think she's improved all around — her serve, her forehand, she's bigger, she's stronger," said Bunge, a West German native who saw Graf play as a young teen-ager.

And like most of Graf's opponents these days, Bunge was pleased to win even three games against the Wimbledon champion, against whom she is now 0-for-5.

Making her first singles appearance since 1987, Bunge gave Graf her biggest challenge of the tourney thus far in a 62-minute match.

Graf's previous longest match in the tournament lasted only 43 minutes. No opponent had managed to win more than 22 points and two games off her in her first tournament since winning at Wimbledon last month.

"I didn't know what to expect today," Graf said. "I knew she

has the touch and she knows how to do it."

But she left no doubt about her own touch, winning the match on two consecutive aces.

Down two games to none in the second set, Bunge mounted a challenge in the third game, overcoming a double fault during and in to win the next two points off Graf. Bunge's last chance came as she trailed 5-1 in the final set. She served up her third ace of the match to win the game. But Graf came back in the next game to finish Bunge off with two aces of her own.

In the second semifinal, Garrison, ranked sixth in the world, ran into trouble after breezing through the first set. Tauziat, sixth seed in the tournament and 26th in the world, used skillful backhand shots to break Garrison's serve and go up 3-1.

Garrison came back two games later, dishing out four service winners to take the sixth game.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Stollmeyer shot

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Former West India cricket captain Jeffrey Stollmeyer was reported in stable condition today, after emergency surgery for gunshot wounds suffered during what police said was an armed robbery at his home. Stollmeyer, 70, who led the West Indies in the 1950s and 1960s, was shot three times in the leg, side and back, according to police reports. His wife was also injured in the shooting, but there was no word on her condition.

Sanchez wins

KITZBUHEL, Austria, Aug. 6. (AP): Emilio Sanchez of Spain defeated Martin Jaito of Argentina 7-6 (7-1), 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 today to take the \$350,000 Austrian Open Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Cane triumphs

BASTAD, Sweden, Aug. 6. (AP): Paolo Cane of Italy edged Bruno Oresar of Yugoslavia 7-6, 7-6 today to win the \$305,000 Swedish Open tennis championships.

Hall of Fame

CANTON, Ohio, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Four superstars of the game, including Pittsburgh Steelers' legendary Terry Bradshaw and Mel Brown, were inducted into the pro football Hall of Fame yesterday.

Norwood best

WIENER, NEUSTADT, Austria, Aug. 6. (AP): Lori Norwood of the United States won the 2-kilometer (1.24-mile) cross-country run yesterday at the women's 9th World Nordic Pentathlon Championships and replaced Tatiana Chernomir of the Soviet Union in the top spot in individual ratings.

Gold medals

LAGOS, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Nigeria's women athletes won three gold medals on the second day of the African Championships yesterday and put the host country ahead in the chase for places in the Africa team for next month's World Cup in Barcelona.

Record bid

BRUSSELS, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Sweden's Patrick Sjoberg made three unsuccessful attempts to break the world high jump record of 2.44 metres at the European Cup Group A athletics final yesterday.

Scandinavian Open

DROTNINGHOLM, Sweden, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Britain's Rona Rafferty is set to go top of the European money list after a record-equaling 64 in yesterday's third round of the \$340,000 Scandinavian Open. Nine birdies on the Drottningholm course helped him to a 13-under-par total of 203, two ahead of Scottish Open champion Mike Allen of the United States, round in 67.

Queen's Cup

NARITA, Japan, Aug. 6. (UPI): Second-round leader Yuko Mochizuki was declared winner of the 48th men's (\$240,000) Queen's Cup golf tournament as his third and final round was rained today.

Danish player

ZUG, Switzerland, Aug. 6. (UPI): Former Danish soccer international Lars Lund, on a comeback trail after suffering brain damage in a car accident two years ago, scored a hat-trick for FC Zug in a 4-3 win over Glarus in a Swiss Second Division match yesterday. Lund is on a free loan from West German League champion Bayern Munich.

Grand Prix

BUDAPEST, Aug. 6. (UPI): After a three-week recess, the Mobil Track and Field Grand Prix resumes Aug. 8 in Budapest with one of five events leading up to the \$763,000 final Sept. 1 in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Admiral's Cup

COWES, Isle of Wight, Aug. 6. (UPI): Britain has been made a 2-1 favorite to win the Admiral's Yachting Cup six-miler series. The final event, the grueling 605-mile fastest race, started today with an international fleet of 42.

British GP

DONINGTON PARK, England, Aug. 6. (Reuters): Kevin Schwantz of the United States, riding a Suzuki, won the British 500cc motor cycle Grand Prix today. Meanwhile, Spanish rider Sito Pons retained his 250cc World Championship title by winning the Grand Prix for the second successive year.

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